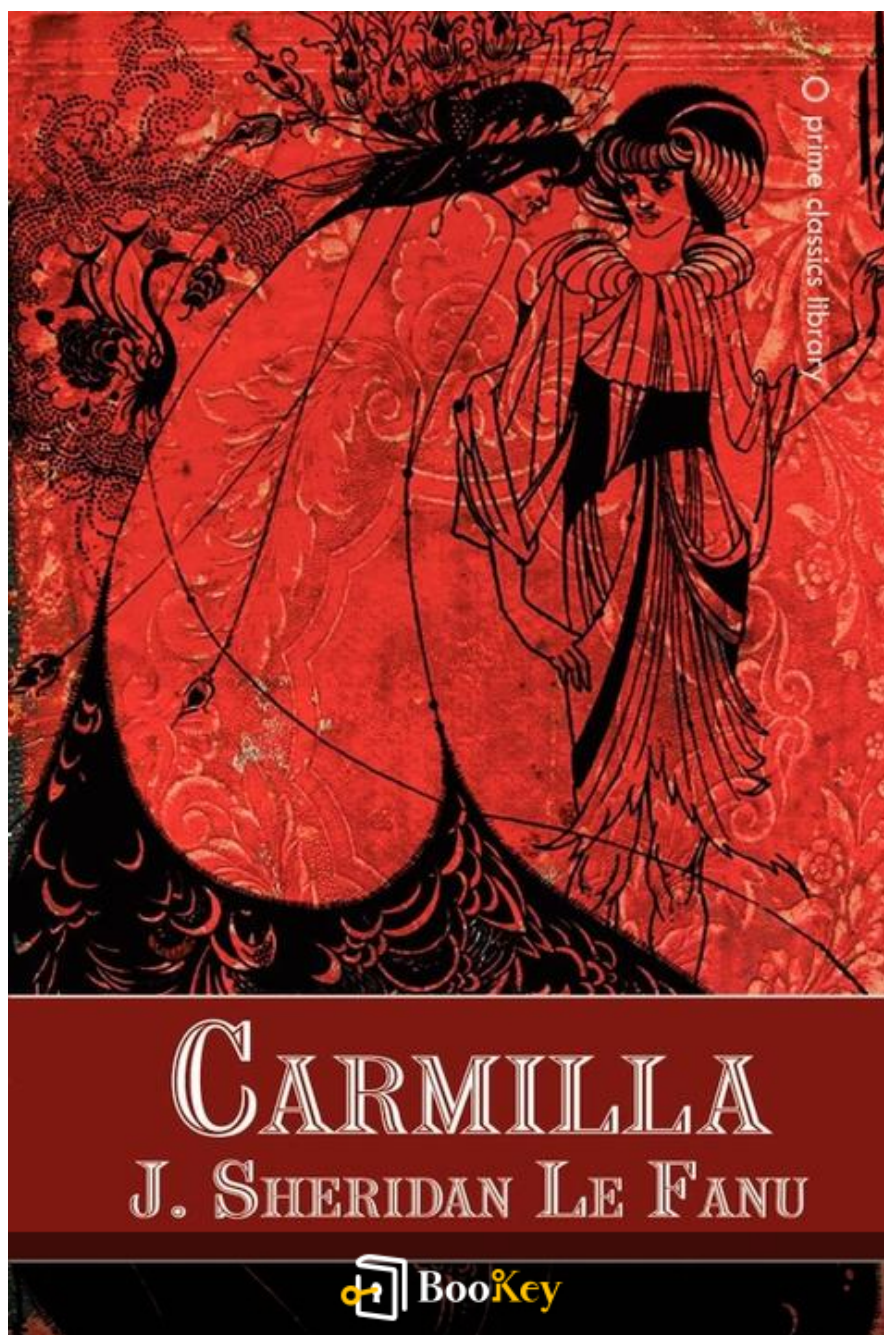


Carmilla PDF (Limited Copy)

J. Sheridan Le Fanu



More Free Book



Scan to Download

Carmilla Summary

"A Dark Tale of Forbidden Desire and Lurking Malice"

Written by Books1

More Free Book



Scan to Download

About the book

Embark on a journey where the ethereal meets the enigmatic, with J. Sheridan Le Fanu's timeless gothic tale, "Carmilla." Set against the hauntingly beautiful backdrop of the lush Austrian landscape, this novella breaks the conventions of its time, delving into themes of forbidden desire, innocence lost, and the chilling allure of the supernatural. At the heart of the story lies a young girl, Laura, whose life is irresistibly entangled with the enigmatic Carmilla, a mysterious guest whose captivating presence sparks fear and fascination alike. As their relationship deepens, secrets unfold, unearthing a vampire narrative that is as much about passion and longing as it is about imminent danger. Perfect for those who cherish gothic horror and tales of tormented romance, "Carmilla" stands as a precursor to Bram Stoker's "Dracula," offering a seductive narrative that blurs the lines between love and terror.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

About the author

Joseph Sheridan Le Fanu, born on August 28, 1814, in Dublin, Ireland, is often celebrated as a master of gothic and supernatural fiction, earning a revered place in the pantheon of 19th-century literature. A writer with a penchant for the eerie and uncanny, Le Fanu became influential in shaping the genre of supernatural horror, and his works have left an indelible mark on the canon of ghost stories. He assumed editorial responsibilities for the Dublin University Magazine, through which he published many of his most famous works. His narrative style, characterized by its atmospheric tension and psychological depth, paved the way for future legends in horror fiction, including Bram Stoker and M.R. James. Amongst his many acclaimed writings, "Carmilla," a chilling vampire novella, stands out as a pioneering work that predates Stoker's "Dracula," offering a tale intertwined with themes of seduction and dread that cemented Le Fanu's status as a trailblazer in gothic literature. Despite his considerable influence and acclaim during his lifetime, Le Fanu's full impact on the genre continued to be recognized posthumously, solidifying his legacy as a key architect of modern horror. The son of a clergyman, Le Fanu's works often exude a unique understanding of the Victorian society's tension between faith and doubt, which in turn lent his haunting tales a profound resonance. He breathed his last on February 7, 1873, but his stories of spectral intrigue continue to bewitch and delight readers around the world.

More Free Book



Scan to Download



Try Bookey App to read 1000+ summary of world best books

Unlock **1000+** Titles, **80+** Topics

New titles added every week

- Brand
- Leadership & Collaboration
- Time Management
- Relationship & Communication
- Business Strategy
- Creativity
- Public
- Money & Investing
- Know Yourself
- Positive Psychology
- Entrepreneurship
- World History
- Parent-Child Communication
- Self-care
- Mind & Spirituality

Insights of world best books



Free Trial with Bookey



Summary Content List

Chapter 1: PROLOGUE

Chapter 2: I: AN EARLY FRIGHT

Chapter 3: II: A GUEST

Chapter 4: III: WE COMPARE NOTES

Chapter 5: IV: HER HABITS – A SAUNTER

Chapter 6: V: A WONDERFUL LIKENESS

Chapter 7: VI: A VERY STRANGE AGONY

Chapter 8: VII: DESCENDING

Chapter 9: VIII: SEARCH

Chapter 10: IX: THE DOCTOR

Chapter 11: X: BEREAVED

Chapter 12: XI: THE STORY

Chapter 13: XII: A PETITION

Chapter 14: XIII: THE WOODMAN

Chapter 15: XIV: THE MEETING

Chapter 16: XV: ORDEAL AND EXECUTION

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Chapter 17: XVI: CONCLUSION

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Chapter 1 Summary: PROLOGUE

Prologue Summary:

The prologue introduces a narrative accompanied by a note from Doctor Hesselius, a learned figure known for his insightful investigations into unusual subjects. Doctor Hesselius is recognized for his authoritative and concise approach, as evident in his essay discussing the mysterious topic covered by the manuscript. This essay is part of a larger series of his collected works. The present volume is aimed at captivating the general public, and the author decides not to preemptively reveal any conclusions from Doctor Hesselius's analysis, respecting the original narrative relayed by an intelligent and meticulous lady.

The author expresses an interest in rekindling the correspondence that Doctor Hesselius once had with this knowledgeable woman, who had provided the detailed account found in this narrative. Unfortunately, any attempt to continue the discourse is rendered impossible as the woman, who could have likely contributed valuable insights, has since passed away. Her narrative, nonetheless, remains in the upcoming pages, delivered with a conscientious level of detail that the author vouches for. The prologue sets the stage for a story that delves into profound mysteries, potentially touching on deep aspects of human existence and its unexplored facets.



Chapter 2 Summary: I: AN EARLY FRIGHT

The first chapter, "An Early Fright," introduces us to the protagonist's life in an isolated castle in Styria, a region known for its picturesque yet solitary landscapes. The narrator and her elderly English father live a comfortable life in this tranquil setting, thanks to their modest but sufficient income, supplemented by the father's pension from his time in the Austrian service. Despite the castle's grandeur, the narrator's day-to-day life is rather quiet, shaped mainly by her interactions with close family and friends.

The family dynamics are central to the narrator's childhood. Her mother passed away when she was an infant, leaving her in the care of Madame Perrodon, a warm and maternal governess from Berne, and Mademoiselle De Lafontaine, a "finishing governess" adept in French and German. This multilingual environment leads to a mix of languages being spoken at home, adding a charming, albeit confusing, element to their domestic life.

The narrator describes her upbringing as rather indulgent, with her father allowing her significant freedom under the "control" of her governesses. Despite occasional visits from nearby residents, her life remains largely solitary.

A significant, haunting event from her childhood stands out vividly in her memory and shapes the narrative of the chapter. When the narrator was



about six years old, she experienced a mysterious and unsettling incident in the nursery. One night, she woke to find what she thought was a strange, beautiful woman comforting her, only to be frightened by a sudden piercing sensation in her chest, as if needles punctured her skin. The seeming stranger then disappeared under the bed, leaving the child in terror.

Upon recounting the experience to the household, the servants were visibly worried, despite their dismissals of her story as mere imagination. Their actions, notably their thorough search of the room and the warmth found in the bedding, confirmed the child's eerie experience. The household's remedy was constant surveillance of the nursery by servants, carried on until the narrator reached her teenage years.

A doctor was consulted, providing little comfort or clarity, and a kindly old cleric visited to pray with and for her, reinforcing a spiritual dimension to the mystery. This event left a deep, unfading impression on the narrator, blending reality with dreams and reinforcing the strikingly isolated fragments of childhood memories she carries into the present.



Chapter 3 Summary: II: A GUEST

The chapter begins with a vivid description of a serene summer evening. The narrator's father invites her for a walk through the scenic forest vista near their family home, the schloss. During their stroll, the father mentions a significant delay in the visit of General Spielsdorf, who was expected to arrive with his niece, Mademoiselle Rheinfeldt. The narrator is disappointed, as she had anticipated many joyful days with Mademoiselle Rheinfeldt. However, the father reveals shocking news: General Spielsdorf's niece has passed away unexpectedly.

The father provides the narrator with General Spielsdorf's letter, which expresses profound grief and confusion. The General mourns the loss of his beloved ward, Bertha, and hints at a betrayal their hospitality suffered at the hands of a mysterious fiend. Despite the chaotic language, it's clear that he is consumed by the tragedy and is determined to take action, even planning a trip to Vienna in search of answers. The letter leaves the narrator deeply saddened, though she had never met Bertha.

As they continue their walk, the tranquil beauty of the setting stands in stark contrast to the mourning news. The narrator and her father reach the drawbridge in front of the schloss, where they are joined by Madame Perrodon and Mademoiselle De Lafontaine, two governesses. While enjoying the moonlit landscape, Mademoiselle De Lafontaine, noted for her



mystical views, comments on the special spiritual activity the full moon signifies, citing superstitions and curious anecdotes.

The calm of the evening is abruptly shattered by the unexpected arrival of a fast-approaching carriage. The scene becomes tense and dramatic as the carriage, drawn by panicked horses, races toward them, ultimately resulting in a crash near the drawbridge. Amid the chaos, a lady of significant presence and her seemingly lifeless daughter emerge from the upturned carriage. Her commanding demeanor and high-rank carriage suggest she is a notable figure.

The father, adept in medical knowledge, confirms that the young woman is alive but unconscious. Her mother, desperate yet constrained by urgent matters that compel her to leave immediately, reluctantly accepts the father's offer to care for her daughter while she continues her pivotal journey. Despite initial refusal citing an undue burden, she is persuaded by the father's insistence on the compassion and readiness the house has to offer.

Following a brief, intense conversation between the mother and the father, which the narrator observes curiously but without comprehension, the mother departs swiftly with her entourage, leaving her daughter in their care. The chapter concludes with a sense of foreboding mixed with intrigue, setting the stage for the mysterious young woman's stay at the schloss and hinting at the unfolding of significant events.



Chapter 4: III: WE COMPARE NOTES

In this chapter of the narrative, we join the protagonist and her companions as they digest the peculiar events following a mysterious carriage accident outside their secluded castle. An enchanting young lady emerges as the sole guest left behind, after the departure of her enigmatic mother and the ominous figures accompanying her. The mother leaves the girl, who is in delicate health, asking for her to remain under the care of the castle's hosts until her return in three months. Before fading into the mist with the rest of the cortege, the mother insists on the importance of the journey's secrecy.

As they bring the new guest to the castle, the protagonist and her caretakers, Madame Perrodon and Mademoiselle De Lafontaine, discuss the elegance and beauty of the girl. However, their conversation is tinged with an uneasy curiosity about the menacing appearance of the mother's entourage, which they attribute to the weariness from travel.

With the doctor summoned to ensure the young lady's health, her new hosts await eagerly to know more about this mysterious visitor. The chapter subtly dissects the juxtaposition of hospitality and the undercurrent of suspicion that accompanies mysterious strangers. In their isolation, the introduction of a new person reignites a sense of anticipation and intrigue within the castle's inhabitants.



The physician's favorable report on the girl's health finally allows the protagonist to approach her new guest, and she enters the girl's elegant but somewhat somber room that is dressed with rich tapestries depicting tragic classical scenes. This sets an ominous yet captivating backdrop as the two young women meet.

As they converse, they uncover a puzzling shared memory from childhood that defies logical explanation. Both recall having seen each other's faces in dreams when they were mere children, which instantaneously creates a bond between them. This discovery fosters a strange connection that is both alluring and slightly eerie, their mingling sense of attraction and residual fear creating an ambiguous tension.

Despite this, their meeting blossoms into a warm friendship, driven by a strong, inexplicable pull towards one another. The new acquaintance shares her fear of robbers and a preference for solitude at night, turning down the offer of a maid. She expresses a desperate longing for companionship, and the warmth between the two hints at a deepening friendship, built on an almost preordained connection.

As the protagonist takes her leave, she is charmed and flattered by the stranger's immediate and heartfelt affection, marking a pivotal moment in their burgeoning friendship. The chapter closes on this note of enchantment and intrigue, with the promise of more interactions and the lingering



questions about identity and fate that have yet to be addressed.

Install Bookey App to Unlock Full Text and Audio

Free Trial with Bookey





Why Bookey is must have App for Book Lovers



30min Content

The deeper and clearer interpretation we provide, the better grasp of each title you have.



Text and Audio format

Absorb knowledge even in fragmented time.



Quiz

Check whether you have mastered what you just learned.



And more

Multiple Voices & fonts, Mind Map, Quotes, IdeaClips...

Free Trial with Bookey



Chapter 5 Summary: IV: HER HABITS – A SAUNTER

In this chapter, the narrator provides insights into her relationship with the enigmatic Carmilla. Despite being captivated by her charm and beauty, the narrator harbors concerns about Carmilla's secretive nature. Carmilla is strikingly beautiful, with a rich complexion, dark, lustrous eyes, and luxuriant dark brown hair infused with gold highlights. Her languid movements hint at frailty, yet she maintains a vibrant aura.

Carmilla's evasiveness about her past piques the narrator's curiosity. She reveals only sparse details: her name, her noble lineage, and that her home lies westward. Despite the narrator's gentle and sometimes direct inquiries, Carmilla remains mysteriously reserved, enchanting yet frustrating her friend. This secrecy creates a paradoxical blend of affection and skepticism within the narrator, who yearns for more clarity about her companion.

Their experiences are intermittently interrupted by Carmilla's peculiar intensity and affection, which often manifest in near-romantic gestures. These moments intoxicate the narrator with a mix of pleasure and unease, sparking conflicting emotions of love and abhorrence.

Carmilla's unusual habits, such as her late rising and languid walks, contrast with her animated conversations about distant lands and foreign customs. During a funeral they casually observe, Carmilla's reaction is dismissive and



impatient, revealing her disdain for such rituals and hinting at a disturbing detachment from mortality.

The chapter also introduces a mysterious itinerant entertainer, equipped with strange curiosities and charms. He identifies something unusual in Carmilla, noting her unusually sharp tooth, which angers her. This encounter, along with recent deaths in the village linked to an enigmatic illness, heightens tension.

Carmilla's dismissal of rational explanations for the illness implies a deeper, perhaps supernatural, understanding. This leaves the narrator puzzled and intrigued, especially after a conversation with a doctor, who speaks cryptically of life's mysteries. Semblances of foreboding and enchantment blend in this gothic tapestry, layering suspense and supernatural allure over the women's intertwined fates.



Chapter 6 Summary: V: A WONDERFUL LIKENESS

The chapter "A Wonderful Likeness" captures an intriguing evening at a secluded schloss, where a delivery from Gratz, the nearby capital, creates a stir among the inhabitants. The delivery includes two large packing cases filled with old portraits that belong to the narrator's family, of Hungarian descent. As the paintings are unpacked, they are revealed to be beautifully restored, much to the fascination of everyone present, especially the narrator.

The story takes a mysterious turn when a portrait of "Mircalla, Countess Karnstein," dated 1698, is revealed. The portrait bears an uncanny resemblance to Carmilla, the enigmatic visitor living with the narrator's family. This sighting elicits wonder and a mix of curiosity and disbelief from those present, though the girl's father seems less affected by the uncanny likeness.

As the evening progresses, the narrator requests the portrait to be hung in her room, struck by its beauty and the likeness to Carmilla. Carmilla, meanwhile, seems detached, yet oddly entranced by the events, momentarily reviving from her usual languor.

The Karnstein name sparks a brief discussion; it's revealed that the narrator's mother was descended from the once-powerful, but now defunct, Karnstein family, whose lineage and ruins still linger in history and landscape nearby.



Taking advantage of the moonlit night, the narrator and Carmilla venture outside, reminiscing about Carmilla's mysterious arrival. They share an intimate, albeit peculiar, moment, hinting at romantic undertones and past mysteries that linger between them. Carmilla, with a sudden intensity, professes a deep connection to the narrator, which quickly shifts to an apathetic demeanor. This strange and abrupt change leaves the narrator bewildered and slightly alarmed.

Returning indoors, Carmilla's health appears to waver, invoking concerns about a rumored epidemic affecting the region. The narrator expresses her worries and suggests medical attention, but Carmilla dismisses the notion, attributing her weakness to moments of fatigue. She reassures the narrator of her recovery, and their conversation continues spiritedly.

The chapter sets the stage for suspense and mystery, entwining themes of identity, ancestral ties, and unspoken affections. The appearance of the portrait acts as a catalyst, reviving questions and emotions that hint at deeper connections and impending revelations. As the night progresses, an undisclosed occurrence further shifts the narrative, arousing energy in Carmilla's otherwise languid nature.



Critical Thinking

Key Point: Unveiling Ancestral Connections

Critical Interpretation: As you delve deep into your ancestral narratives, like the discovery at the schloss, it can inspire a profound understanding of yourself and your place in the world. Mircalla's portrait acts as a symbolic bridge connecting the past with the present, hinting at powerful stories that lie within family lineages. This revelation serves as a reminder that exploring your roots may uncover remarkable insights into your identity, inspiring growth and connection to your heritage, much like the intertwined fates of Carmilla and the narrator. In our journey, recognizing and embracing these deep histories can foster a stronger sense of belonging and purpose, guiding us through life's mysterious paths.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Chapter 7 Summary: VI: A VERY STRANGE AGONY

In this chapter, the tension surrounding Carmilla, the enigmatic guest, intensifies. After an evening in the drawing room where coffee, chocolate, and a card game were shared, Carmilla and the protagonist's father, who she resides with, have a profound conversation. The father, concerned about the ongoing mysterious illness in the neighborhood, inquires if Carmilla has received any word from her mother. Carmilla, evasive about her mother's whereabouts, suggests she might leave, but the father's insistence on her staying is both comforting and laced with undercurrents of unease given the strange happenings and the disease claiming the area.

The protagonist, charmed yet baffled by Carmilla, questions her about sharing personal confidences. Carmilla's enigmatic reply, laden with hints of love and secrecy, teases at a truth yet to be revealed but suggests an intense, consuming bond. She confesses to a past incident, suggestive of an attack, that left her physically and perhaps emotionally scarred, adding to the air of mystery.

In their nightly routine, the protagonist accompanies Carmilla to her room where the two bond, though Carmilla remains a figure cloaked in ambiguity. Despite a sense of closeness, there is a lingering question about Carmilla's religious beliefs, as she avoids family prayers and seems unconcerned with traditional Christian practices, hinting to the protagonist a potential



disconnect from normalcy.

Inspired by Carmilla's nocturnal insecurities and habits, the protagonist adopts precautionary measures — locking doors and scanning the room for intruders. Despite these measures, she is haunted by a vivid, disquieting dream of a large, sinister cat-creature prowling her room, culminating in an attack that leaves her with a lingering, surreal terror. Awakening with a scream, she notices a ghostly woman's figure at the foot of her bed, which silently moves out the door. The protagonist, panic-stricken, questions the reality of her experience and retreats under her covers, engulfed by a mix of fear and paralysis until daylight offers refuge, though the implications of the night's events linger unsettlingly. This chapter delves deeply into themes of fear, supernatural influence, and the unraveling mystery of Carmilla's true nature.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Critical Thinking

Key Point: Embracing Precaution in Uncertainty

Critical Interpretation: As you navigate life's uncertainties, take inspiration from the protagonist who balances her fascination with Carmilla and her own need for safety and well-being. Even when enraptured by the enigmatic allure of those around us, remember the importance of safeguarding your boundaries and instincts. Just like the protagonist adopts precautionary measures after unsettling experiences, you too can learn to trust your intuition, assessing situations wisely and protecting yourself from potential harm without losing the joy of new connections and discoveries. This approach allows us to enjoy life's mysteries while staying grounded, demonstrating that courage is as much about preparation as it is about confronting fears.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Chapter 8: VII: DESCENDING

In Chapter VII, titled "Descending," the protagonist recounts the terrifying events of a haunting night that continues to plague her with dread. Unlike fleeting nightmares, the fear grows with time, casting a sinister aura over her surroundings. The next day, she is reluctant to be alone, torn between confiding in her father for fear of mockery or causing him undue worry over a mysterious illness spreading through their area.

She finds solace in the company of Madame Perrodon and the lively Mademoiselle Lafontaine, who notice her nervous demeanor. In her distress, she shares the heavy burden of her experience with them. Mademoiselle laughs it off, calling the long lime tree walk behind Carmilla's window haunted, while Madame Perrodon seems anxious.

Carmilla, a mysterious and captivating character, later confides in the protagonist about her own frightful night, attributing her comfort to a charm she bought. She shares a haunting dream of a dark figure looming over her, but the charm's touch makes it vanish. The protagonist, inspired by Carmilla's belief, decides to keep the charm close that night, leading to a sound sleep devoid of nightmares.

Sleep comes easily in subsequent nights, yet it brings with it a subtle melancholy and physical fatigue that feels almost indulgent. Carmilla claims



the charm is a natural remedy against illnesses conveyed through the air, not evil spirits, and is pleased with their improved sleep, though the protagonist remains skeptical.

As days pass, an inexplicable malaise takes hold of the protagonist, enveloping her in a strange sense of mortality, which she oddly welcomes. Despite noticing a distinct change in her demeanor and appearance—paleness and exhaustion—she refuses to admit illness or seek her father's or a doctor's help. Carmilla grows more attentive, and as the protagonist's strength wanes, Carmilla's almost obsessive affection becomes unsettling, hinting at an underlying unnatural influence.

The protagonist experiences peculiar dreams of a chilling embrace, a voice filled with solemnity, and fleeting sensations of warmth and affection, evolving into terrifying physical convulsions, leaving her unconscious. These nightly ordeals have persisted for weeks, eroding her vitality, yet she remains hesitant to label them the notorious "oupire" affliction dreaded by the locals.

One night brings a climactic dream warning of an assassin, accompanied by a horrific vision of Carmilla drenched in blood. Panic-stricken, she awakens, and her cries draw the household's attention. Together with Madame and Mademoiselle, they attempt to rouse Carmilla, only to find her door locked and unresponsive. After much commotion and fear, they force entry only to



discover Carmilla has mysteriously vanished, leaving the room undisturbed and the night shrouded in unanswered questions.

This chapter deepens the mystery and heightens the suspense, laying bare the protagonist's struggles against a creeping dread and unveiling Carmilla's enigma—a blend of fascination, horror, and unexplainable illness—setting the stage for revelations to come.

Install Bookey App to Unlock Full Text and Audio

Free Trial with Bookey





Positive feedback

Sara Scholz

tes after each book summary
understanding but also make the
and engaging. Bookey has
ding for me.

Fantastic!!!



I'm amazed by the variety of books and languages
Bookey supports. It's not just an app, it's a gateway
to global knowledge. Plus, earning points for charity
is a big plus!

Masood El Toure

Fi



Ab
bo
to
my

José Botín

ding habit
o's design
ual growth

Love it!



Bookey offers me time to go through the
important parts of a book. It also gives me enough
idea whether or not I should purchase the whole
book version or not! It is easy to use!

Wonnie Tappkx

Time saver!



Bookey is my go-to app for
summaries are concise, ins
curated. It's like having acc
right at my fingertips!

Awesome app!



I love audiobooks but don't always have time to listen
to the entire book! bookey allows me to get a summary
of the highlights of the book I'm interested in!!! What a
great concept !!!highly recommended!

Rahul Malviya

Beautiful App



This app is a lifesaver for book lovers with
busy schedules. The summaries are spot
on, and the mind maps help reinforce wh
I've learned. Highly recommend!

Alex Walk

Free Trial with Bookey



Chapter 9 Summary: VIII: SEARCH

In Chapter VIII, titled "Search," the characters are thrown into a state of panic when Carmilla, a mysterious and enigmatic young woman, goes missing. The chapter begins with a chaotic scene as the narrator and others violently burst into Carmilla's room, only to find it undisturbed and empty. Mademoiselle, a caretaker figure, suggests that perhaps Carmilla hid herself upon being startled by the commotion at her door.

Despite a thorough search of the room and appeals for Carmilla to emerge from hiding, no trace of her is found. The narrator is troubled by the possibility of secret passages within the ancient schloss (castle), a suggestion made by the old housekeeper.

As the night drags on, the narrator decides to wait for daylight in Madame's room, but the mystery remains unsolved by morning. The entire household becomes involved in the search, exploring every part of the chateau and its grounds. The thought of having to inform Carmilla's mother of her disappearance causes much distress.

Surprisingly, at one o'clock, the narrator discovers Carmilla standing nonchalantly at her dressing table. She appears frightened yet unharmed. Overjoyed, the narrator rushes to her side and alerts the others. Carmilla recounts an enigmatic story of going to sleep in her locked room and



inexplicably waking up on the sofa in her dressing room with the door between the rooms open and another door forced—an event that should have woken even the lightest sleeper like her.

As the room fills with curious onlookers, Carmilla can offer no explanation beyond bewilderment. After dismissing the servants, the narrator's father gently probes Carmilla with questions. He proposes the theory that Carmilla, a former sleepwalker, might have unwittingly walked in her sleep, unlocking and relocking doors in her slumber before returning to her dressing room.

The father hypothesizes that Carmilla secured the doors subconsciously and wandered through the labyrinthine chateau, eventually ending up on the sofa. He assures everyone that the most mundane explanation—a sleepwalking episode—accounts for the night's events, dismissing fears of more sinister possibilities like burglary or witchcraft.

Carmilla's languid beauty is noted by the narrator's father, who wistfully wishes for his daughter, Laura, to return to her healthier self, as she contrasts sharply with the ever-charming Carmilla. With this natural explanation, the household's fears are allayed, and Carmilla is welcomed back into the fold, seemingly putting an end to the night's distress. However, readers are left to wonder whether this explanation truly resolves all underlying mysteries surrounding Carmilla and the strange occurrences at the schloss.

Chapter Part	Summary
Initial Panic	The chapter opens with chaos as the narrator and others burst into Carmilla's room, only to find it empty. Mademoiselle suggests she may have hidden, but no trace of her is discovered.
Search Efforts	A thorough search ensues within the ancient schloss; the thought of secretly hidden passages unsettles the narrator.
Mystery Deepens	The narrator waits for daylight in Madame's room, with the entire household combing the chateau and its grounds without success.
Unexpected Return	At one o'clock, the narrator finds Carmilla standing at her dressing table, unharmed and puzzled, recounting a mysterious experience.
Carmilla's Explanation	Carmilla claims to have sleepwalked her way to the sofa from her locked room, with doors inexplicably opened.
Father's Theory	The narrator's father proposes sleepwalking as the logical explanation, dismissing fears of burglary or supernatural involvement.
Resolution	The explanation alleviates household fears, though questions remain about Carmilla and the deeper mysteries at hand.



Chapter 10 Summary: IX: THE DOCTOR

In chapter IX, titled "The Doctor," the story develops around Laura, her father, and the mysterious ailments she has been experiencing. Laura's friend Carmilla, who is also staying at their estate, refuses to sleep with an attendant in her room, prompting Laura's father to have a servant stationed outside her door.

The next morning, without prior notice to Laura, her father brings in a doctor to examine her. Laura recounts her troubling experiences to the doctor, who listens intently, growing visibly concerned as she details her symptoms. Upon examining Laura, the doctor notices a small blue mark on her neck, which alarms her father. The doctor inquires about Laura's sensation of strangulation and feelings like cold currents running through her, connecting them to this mark.

Following the examination, the doctor advises that Laura should not be left alone, prompting her father and Madame, a household manager, to ensure Laura is always accompanied. This precaution hints at a mysterious but pressing concern regarding Laura's health, although neither the doctor nor her father elaborates on the exact nature of the threat.

After consulting about another guest, the doctor plans to return later to examine Carmilla, who shares some symptoms with Laura but to a milder



degree. The narrative creates tension as it hints at a shared affliction between the two young women, suggesting a deeper, possibly supernatural cause.

Later that day, a letter from General Spielsdorf arrives, announcing his imminent visit. However, Laura's father appears unhappy about this timing. His apparent reluctance adds to the mystery, as he is usually pleased to host such a close family friend.

Despite Laura's questions about her condition, her father remains evasive, only assuring her that with the right care, she will recover soon. This leaves Laura puzzled and anxious about her health and the unspoken concerns apparent in the adults around her.

Laura and her father, accompanied by Madame, set off on a picturesque drive to Karnstein Castle—the ruins of which present an opportunity for an outing—while also meeting with a local priest for business. During this ride, they unexpectedly encounter General Spielsdorf, who joins them as they continue to the castle. The General's arrival adds a layer of suspense, as he might hold more insights into the ongoing mysterious occurrences surrounding Laura and Carmilla.

The chapter builds a tense atmosphere of secrecy and foreboding, hinting at a malevolent force or influence affecting Laura and perhaps others. As the story unfolds, the interplay of the supernatural with the unexplained illness



encourages the reader to speculate on the connection between the enigmatic Carmilla and Laura's distressing experiences.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Chapter 11 Summary: X: BEREAVED

In the chapter "Bereaved," we are reintroduced to a General whom we haven't seen for nearly ten months. This time, however, he appears drastically changed, aged by years rather than mere months, with a demeanor shadowed by gloom and anxiety that has replaced the peaceful serenity that once characterized him. His penetrating dark blue eyes now hold a stern intensity beneath his shaggy grey eyebrows, hinting at underlying anger and sorrow.

As we resume our journey, the General begins to speak candidly about the recent loss of his beloved niece and ward, expressing his grief with palpable bitterness and fury. His anger is directed toward what he describes as the "hellish arts" responsible for her death, and he questions with disdain how such evil could be allowed by divine oversight.

Concerned and curious, my father delicately asks the General to share more about the circumstances of this tragic event. Although initially reluctant, the General concedes, indicating that the events he is about to recount might seem incredible due to their supernatural nature.

Despite my father's affirmations of respect and willingness to listen without prejudice, the General remains doubtful, noting that he too was once a skeptic until compelled by extraordinary evidence to accept the supernatural.



He mentions that he was ensnared in a preternatural conspiracy, words that provoke a momentary glance of suspicion from my father, who wonders about the General's sanity at this claim. Fortunately, the General doesn't notice, as he is preoccupied with the sights of the woods stretching before us.

Our destination is the Ruins of Karnstein, a site the General specifically wishes to visit. There, he intends to explore a ruined chapel thought to harbor the tombs of the long-extinct Karnstein family—a family linked to my father's late wife through maternal descent. The ruins themselves are mysterious, as no one has ventured there in decades, with even the accompanying village left deserted for fifty years.

Amidst this backdrop, the General turns serious, sharing his intent to commit what he calls a "pious sacrilege"—unearthing tombs to rid the earth of monstrous entities, implying some dark forces connected to the Karnstein lineage.

My father engages the General again, urging him to share his story. The General recalls his niece, whom he once cherished as his own daughter, only months prior. Her beauty and vitality had been a source of joy for him. As tears form in the General's eyes, he reflects on their lost happiness and vows to serve justice for her untimely demise.



Our conversation shifts back to curiosity about the ruins; my father estimates they're about half a league away. As we draw nearer, my father presses the General to reveal the tale promised, keenly aware that the General's story could explain the tragic events that disrupted their lives.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Critical Thinking

Key Point: Acceptance of the Supernatural

Critical Interpretation: In 'Bereaved,' the General once a skeptic, is now forced to confront the supernatural forces responsible for his niece's death, challenging his previously rigid beliefs. This pivotal moment in the story invites you to consider the power of acceptance when faced with inexplicable circumstances. In your journey, you may encounter situations that defy logical explanation, yet acceptance can pave the way for wisdom and resilience. By acknowledging the unknown and opening your heart to possibilities beyond comprehension, you unlock the strength to navigate the mysterious and embrace the transformative potential that such experiences can offer.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Chapter 12: XI: THE STORY

In Chapter XI, titled "The Story," we are introduced to a peculiar and intriguing narrative shared by a General during a conversation with the narrator and his father. The General recounts an incident filled with mystery and allure, which took place during an opulent masquerade ball hosted by Count Carlsfeld at his estate, located about six leagues from Karnstein. The ball was part of a series of festivities in honor of the Grand Duke Charles, featuring lavish decorations, fireworks, and a distinguished collection of guests.

The General's excitement sets the stage as he recounts how his "dear child," his ward, was eagerly anticipating a visit to the narrator's daughter. However, prior to the visit, they attended Count Carlsfeld's festivities. The masquerade was a spectacle of aristocracy and opulence, with personalities from high society in attendance.

During the event, the General observed a masked young lady paying particular attention to his ward. This lady, accompanied by a stately chaperon who was also masked, engaged the General in a conversation that piqued his curiosity due to her extensive knowledge of his life. Despite his attempts, the lady skillfully evaded revealing her identity, hinting at her past acquaintance with him. She did, however, mention her daughter, Millarca, who intrigued the General's ward by revealing her face, which was



extraordinarily beautiful and unfamiliar to both the General and his ward.

The masked lady avoided disclosing her identity or nationality, teasing the General with her familiarity and mysterious allure. Their conversation was interrupted by a pale gentleman in plain evening attire who approached the

Install Bookey App to Unlock Full Text and Audio

Free Trial with Bookey





Read, Share, Empower

Finish Your Reading Challenge, Donate Books to African Children.

The Concept



This book donation activity is rolling out together with Books For Africa. We release this project because we share the same belief as BFA: For many children in Africa, the gift of books truly is a gift of hope.

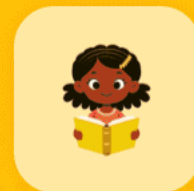
The Rule



Earn 100 points



Redeem a book



Donate to Africa

Your learning not only brings knowledge but also allows you to earn points for charitable causes! For every 100 points you earn, a book will be donated to Africa.

Free Trial with Bookey



Chapter 13 Summary: XII: A PETITION

Chapter XII, titled "A Petition," unfolds with a mysterious encounter that significantly influences the narrative's trajectory. The protagonist narrates an unexpected meeting with a woman of noble bearing, the Countess, who expresses an urgent necessity to travel due to a life-and-death mission. The Countess is veiled in secrecy, revealing neither her identity nor the details of her mission, adding a layer of intrigue to the encounter.

The Countess, acknowledging her precarious situation and the need for discretion, makes a bold request of the narrator: to care for her daughter, Millarca, during her absence. Despite the audacity of this request, aided by her refined demeanor and a simultaneous plea from the narrator's own daughter, the protagonist is swayed. The narrator notes Millarca's captivating and engaging presence, characterized by a grace and elegance hinting at noble lineage. This compelling charm, combined with the urgency of the Countess's situation, persuades the protagonist to accept the responsibility of care despite initial doubts.

The Countess impresses upon the narrator the importance of maintaining discretion about her identity and intentions, invoking a sense of honor and trust. As she departs with a mysterious gentleman in black, a clear signal of her high status, Millarca is left in the narrator's guardianship, marking a pivotal turn in the story.



Amidst the grandeur of a ball attended by nobility, Millarca further endears herself to the narrator and his ward, amusing them with her lively recount of stories and descriptions of the attendees. Nevertheless, an unforeseen complication arises as the protagonist and his ward lose sight of Millarca in the bustling crowd. The narrator's concern grows as he reflects on the risks of accepting Millarca without knowing her true background or identity.

By morning, Millarca's whereabouts remain unknown until she, distressed and presumably lost, seeks out the protagonist and his family. Her tale of woe about missing them and spending the night in a deep, restorative sleep is accepted, though it only partially explains her absence.

Millarca's return to the narrator's home solidifies her place in the family, much to the protagonist's initial relief. Her presence promises companionship and vibrancy for the narrator's daughter, despite the underlying sense of unease that lingers from the mysterious circumstances surrounding her arrival. This chapter deftly sets the stage for the unfolding events, where themes of trust, secrecy, and the allure of unknown identities play crucial roles in weaving the narrative's complex tapestry.



Chapter 14 Summary: XIII: THE WOODMAN

In Chapter XIII, titled "The Woodman," the narrative continues to delve into the eerie happenings surrounding the mysterious character Millarca and her ominous impact on the protagonist's surroundings. The chapter opens with the unnerving circumstances related to Millarca's strange behavior following her alleged recovery from an illness. Millarca is observed wandering outside, appearing in a trance state at odd hours, which raises questions about how she manages to leave her locked room without any visible means of exit. This unsettling activity is compounded by the troubling health decline of the narrator's own child, who experiences disturbing dreams and mysterious physical sensations that echo those described by another young woman named Millarca.

The chapter reveals another layer of tension as the protagonist becomes acutely aware that the symptoms described align precisely with those observed in their guest, highlighting an ominous link between Millarca's behavior and the narrator's family. This realization is compounded during their journey to a derelict village and castle once inhabited by the notorious Karnstein family, infamous for their dark history. The narrator accompanies a General who shares historical insights into the Karnsteins' malevolent legacy, particularly focusing on Mircalla, Countess of Karnstein, who is rumored to continue haunting the living.



As they explore the ruins, the General expresses a personal vendetta against the Countess, whom he believes is a vampiric entity requiring beheading to eradicate her menace permanently. This determination is prompted by a tale recounted by an aged woodman encountered near the chapel, who shares local folklore about the village's past troubles with revenants—undead creatures or vampires—and the measures taken to destroy them, such as decapitation and staking. A particular story involves a Moravian nobleman who, through clever tactics, decapitated a marauding vampire, thereby liberating the village from torment.

The chapter concludes with the woodman unable to identify the site of Mircalla's tomb, suggesting it has been lost to time, thereby leaving the characters to ponder the unresolved mysteries of the past and their chilling implications for the present. This creates an atmosphere of heightened dread and anticipation, as the General's tale deepens the intrigue surrounding the Karnsteins and the enigmatic presence of Millarca.



Critical Thinking

Key Point: Courage in confronting past traumas

Critical Interpretation: In Chapter 14 of 'Carmilla,' the General's unyielding determination and courage to face the ghostly presence of a historical menace, the Countess of Karnstein, serve as a poignant allegory. Much like how the General seeks to confront and neutralize the vampiric threat that haunts the village, you, too, can channel this resolve into addressing your own lingering fears and unresolved issues that may cast a shadow over your present life. This chapter underscores the importance of taking brave steps to confront the specters of your past, no matter how daunting. This valor in facing and reconciling with your life's 'Karnsteins' not only liberates you from the shackles of fear but also empowers you, much like the villagers liberated from their torment. Embrace the courage to face your own challenges head-on, allowing yourself to transform from a state of anxiety to one of empowerment and peace.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Chapter 15 Summary: XIV: THE MEETING

In this chapter, titled "The Meeting," the story unfolds with the narrator recounting the worsening condition of a beloved ward, presumed to be suffering from a mysterious disease. The attending physician suggests a consultation, and an experienced doctor from Gratz is called upon for a second opinion. The situation becomes tense when the two doctors discuss the case, with the Gratz physician hinting at something beyond a natural illness. After the consultation, which ends without a tangible plan, the doctor from Gratz confides in the narrator, warning that the illness is not natural. He urges the narrator to read his detailed letter in the presence of a clergyman, suggesting the involvement of supernatural forces.

Driven by desperation, the General complies with the instructions, discovering the alarming suggestion that the ward is a victim of a vampire. The theory seems absurd, but in the face of traditional methods failing, he decides to follow the advice. Concealed in the patient's room, he witnesses a dark, indistinct form engulfing the girl. He attempts to confront the creature with his sword but is left horrified when the figure dissolves into Millarca, a woman involved in the mystery.

The narrative shifts to the present moment, where the General, overwhelmed by emotion after recounting the tale, is silent and contemplative. The narrator, standing in a somber graveyard with moldering monuments, feels



unnerved by the eerie setting and the gravity of the General's story.

Carmilla, the apparently illusive woman, reappears, and a tense situation unfolds as the General attempts to attack her. Carmilla evades his blows with supernatural agility, further cementing the strange and fearsome nature of her character.

The General reveals that Carmilla is indeed Millarca, also known by another name, Mircalla, the Countess Karnstein—a vampire figure from the past. He urges the narrator to leave the haunted location, warning of the malevolent nature of Carmilla. The scene concludes with a sense of foreboding, as the specter of vampirism looms large over the characters, entwining their fates with the supernatural and the past.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Chapter 16: XV: ORDEAL AND EXECUTION

In Chapter XV, titled "Ordeal and Execution," we encounter a pivotal series of events centered around the mysterious legacy of Carmilla, the vampire. The scene unfolds in an old chapel, where General Spielsdorf and Laura's father meet a peculiar man named the Baron. This man is introduced as a significant figure with an unusual appearance: tall, stooping, and dressed in black, with gold spectacles and an eccentric gait. He has come to assist in uncovering the truth behind the sinister occurrences that have plagued the region.

As they discuss a plan of the chapel and engage in investigative efforts, they uncover the long-lost monument of Mircalla, Countess Karnstein, a notorious vampire. This discovery sets the stage for the upcoming exorcism of the evil that has haunted the land for over a century. The General is visibly relieved and grateful to the Baron, recognizing the significance of eliminating this vampire threat.

Despite the urgency of the situation, full disclosure is withheld from Laura, who remains unaware of the exact nature of the chapel's discoveries or the conversation about her case held privately by her father and the General. She is dismayed by Carmilla's sudden disappearance and troubled by the lack of explanation regarding the night's events and the extraordinary precautions being taken for her safety, including the presence of a priest and attendants



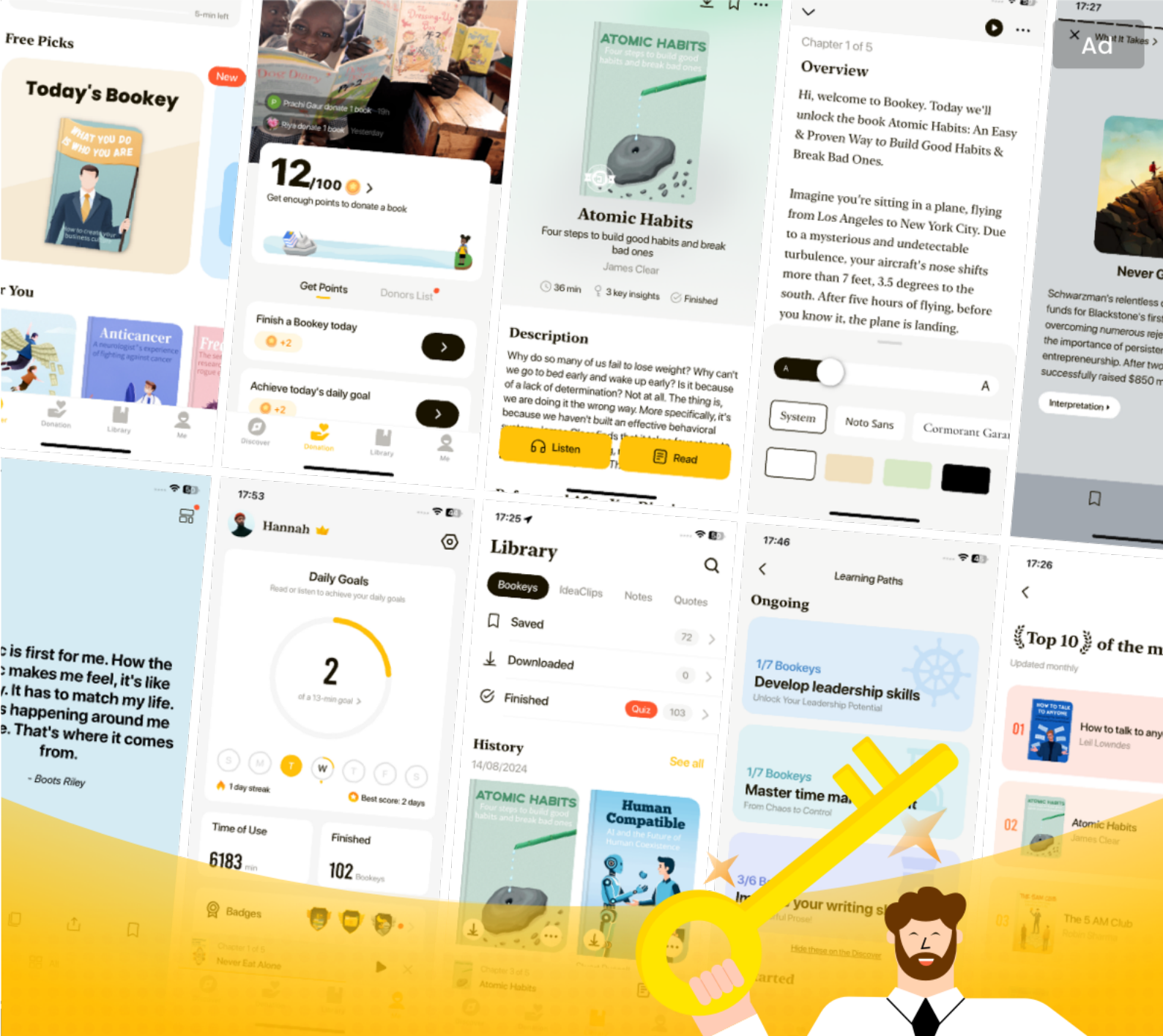
in her room.

In the days following, Laura begins to understand the gravity of what has transpired. The disappearances and nocturnal afflictions she suffered cease, correlating with the ancient belief in vampires prevalent across regions like

Install Bookey App to Unlock Full Text and Audio

Free Trial with Bookey





World's best ideas unlock your potential

Free Trial with Bookey



Scan to download



Chapter 17 Summary: XVI: CONCLUSION

In the final chapter of the narrative, the protagonist reflects on the terrifying experiences that continue to haunt them. Despite the passage of time, the mere recollection of these events causes deep unrest, and it was only at the insistence of a persistent friend that the protagonist agreed to document their ordeal.

Central to the resolution is Baron Vordenburg, an enigmatic scholar living modestly in Gratz. Descended from nobility, he dedicated his life to the study of vampirism. The Baron possessed an extensive collection of works on the subject, which informed his systematic understanding of vampire lore. According to him, vampires do not exhibit the stereotypical deathly pallor but appear vibrant and lifelike. They are creatures bound to a dual existence—waking at night to quench their thirst for blood and retreating to their graves by day without disturbing the soil or shroud. Their predatory nature is akin to a terrible, twisted romance, sometimes choosing victims with obsessive affection and savoring their lives through prolonged encounters.

In the exceptional case of Mircalla, also known by anagrams of her name such as Carmilla and Millarca, this compulsive fixation dictated her choices. The narrative drives toward a climax with the revelation of her burial site, a discovery made possible by Vordenburg's mysterious family papers. It is



revealed that a heartbroken Moravian nobleman, who was devoted to Mircalla in life, played a part in concealing her resting place. Vordenburg's ancestor, appallingly aware of the posthumous violence likely to befall her, orchestrated a ruse to protect her for as long as possible. This backstory punctuates the tragic love tale with a twist of supernatural irony.

In a conversation between the protagonist's father and Vordenburg, it's divulged that the latter's ancestor forged documents and obscured Mircalla's grave to delay inevitable retribution. Ironically, as history would have it, a distant descendant restored the course by discovering this truth too late for many victims.

The chapter ends as the family seeks respite in Italy, their hearts burdened by the lingering horrors but attempting to heal and move forward. For the protagonist, the memory of Carmilla oscillates between the charm of her once-gentle facade and the terror of her unveiled, monstrous identity. These reflections serve as an unsettling reminder of the dangerous allure vampires can possess, blending seduction and horror into an unforgettable ordeal.

