

# Baker Street *Elementary*

PRESENTS  
"THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON"



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THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON  
# A044 -- 9 STORIES TO SINK YOUR TEETH INTO -- JANUARY, 2022



*WELCOME TO TOPIC # 044... TODAY, WATSON AND I WILL BE LOOKING AT PEOPLE WHO LIVE OFF THE BLOOD OF OTHERS, IN A MATTER OF SPEAKING...*







IN 'THE ADVENTURE OF THE SUSSEX VAMPIRE',  
'THE ADVENTURE OF THE ILLUSTRIOUS CLIENT'  
AND 'THE ADVENTURE OF THE THREE GABLES,' I  
INVESTIGATED THREE DIFFERENT VAMPIRE-LIKE  
CREATURES.





THESE THREE STORIES, ALL FIRST PUBLISHED BETWEEN 1924 AND 1926, INCLUDED REFERENCES TO BEINGS WHO SURVIVED OFF THE ESSENCE OF OTHERS AND APPEARED IN PRINT ABOUT TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AFTER BRAM STOKER'S DRACULA.



**THE CONCEPT OF THE VAMPIRE — AN INDIVIDUAL WHO ACHIEVES IMMORTALITY BY LIVING OFF OF OTHERS' BLOOD OR ENERGY — CAN BE TRACED BACK TO ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS AND APPEARS IN SOME FORM IN MOST CULTURES.**





THE BASIC CHARACTERISTICS INCLUDE AN ETERNAL LIFE SUSTAINED THROUGH 'FEASTING' ON OTHERS, WHICH HAVE INCLUDED BABIES, YOUNG GIRLS OR VIRGINS, HUMANS IN GENERAL, OR SOMETIMES ANIMALS.



**THEORIES SUGGEST THESE LEGENDS WERE USED TO EXPLAIN EPIDEMICS THAT WIPED OUT WHOLE FAMILIES OR VILLAGES (SUCH AS THE PLAGUE OR TUBERCULOSIS) DISFIGURATION OF CORPSES AS PART OF DECOMPOSITION, AND FEAR OF PARTICULARLY EVIL OR HATED FIGURES AFTER DEATH... 'SIGHTINGS' OF THE INDIVIDUAL OCCURRING IN DREAMS OR ON THE STREET.**





**SUCH CREATURES WERE DEALT WITH BY EXHUMING THE BODY, DISARMING IT WITH A STAKE THROUGH THE HEART OR STONE IN THE MOUTH, OR AT TIMES, BURNING THE CORPSE.**



A RENEWAL OF 'VAMPIRE CRAZE' DEVELOPED IN THE EARLY 1700s WITH THE PUBLICATION OF SEVERAL TALES OF DEAD OR SPURNED LOVERS RETURNING TO DRINK THE BLOOD OF THEIR FORMER OBJECT OF AFFECTION, AND OFTEN SERVED AS MORALITY TALES DESCRIBING THE TENSIONS BETWEEN HEATHENS AND CHRISTIANS.







THE STANDARD FOR CONTEMPORARY VAMPIRE  
LORE, HOWEVER, WAS SET WITH THE  
PUBLICATION OF DRACULA.





**THIS STORY FOLLOWED THE ELEMENTS OF GOTHIC FICTION POPULAR AT THE TIME, COMBINING A REMOTE LOCATION WITH AN OMINOUS SETTING (SUCH AS A DECAYING HOUSE), AND A SUPERNATURAL CREATURE.**





OF THE MANY THEMES IN THE BOOK (THE GLOBALIZATION OF BRITAIN, PERILS OF 'MODERN' WOMEN AND SEXUAL ACTIVITY, AND NEW TECHNOLOGY), THE INCURSION OF FOREIGN ELEMENTS - IN PARTICULAR MONSTERS - INTO BRITAIN WAS SHARED WITH OTHER AUTHORS OF THE TIME, INCLUDING RUDYARD KIPLING AND SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE.



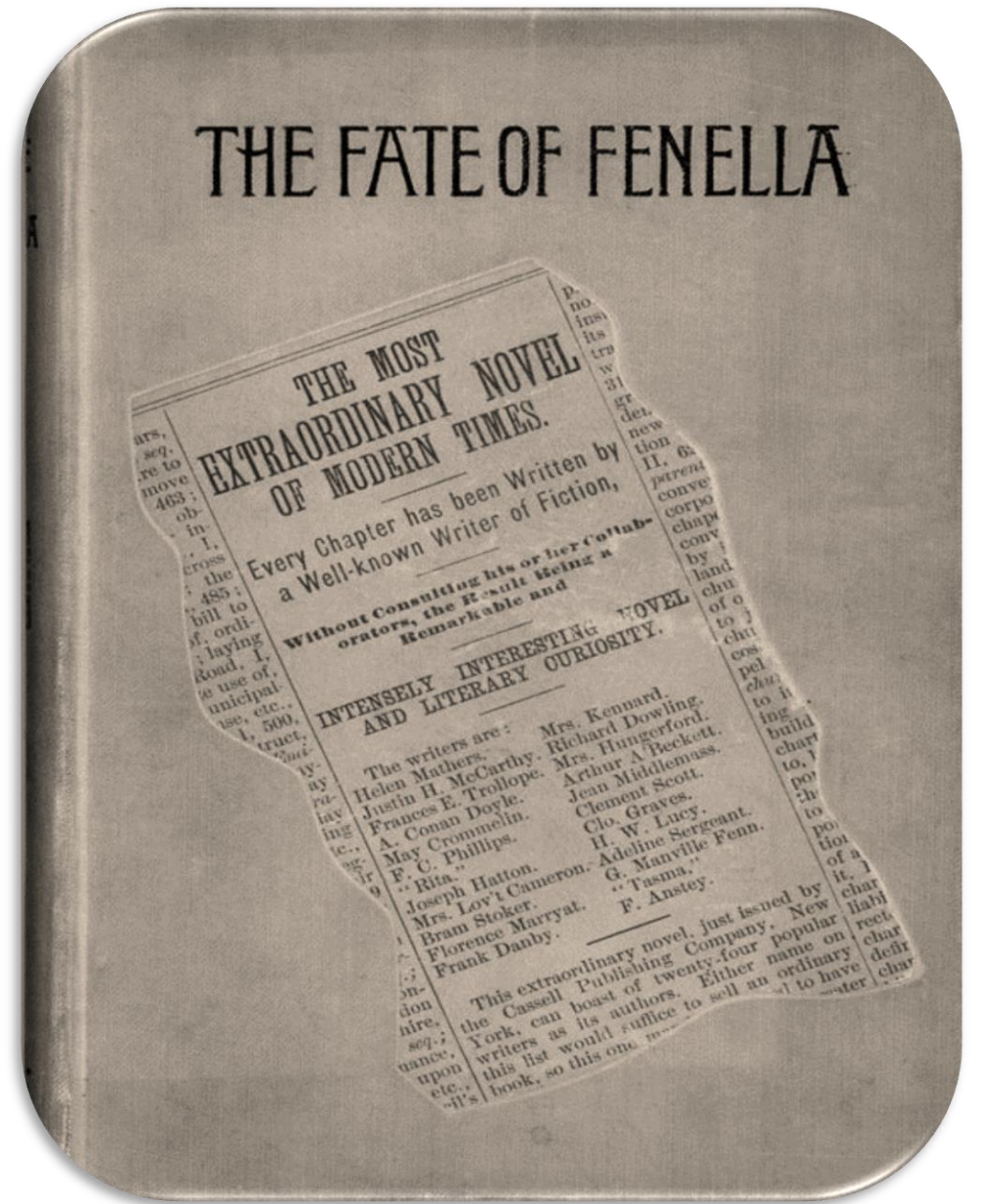


THAT STOKER AND CONAN DOYLE SHARED SIMILAR IDEAS IS NOT SURPRISING IN THAT THEY TRAVELED IN THE SAME LITERARY CIRCLES, WHICH ALSO INVOLVED AUTHORS SUCH AS OSCAR WILDE AND WILLIAM BUTLER YEATS.





THIS GROUP EVEN COLLABORATED IN A SERIAL NOVEL THE FATE OF FENELLA, PUBLISHED IN 1892.



THEIR FRIENDSHIP WAS ALSO SHARED THROUGH MUTUAL ADMIRATION OF EACH OTHER'S WORKS AS SEEN IN THE LETTER DOYLE WROTE TO STOKER IN 1897 PRAISING DRACULA AND STOKER'S INTERVIEW OF CONAN DOYLE PUBLISHED IN 1907.



ST IVES COTTAGE,  
CHART ROAD,  
REIGATE.

Claremont  
Eastbourne  
Aug 20/97

My dear Bram Stoker.

I am sure that you will not think it an impertinence if I write to tell you how very much I have enjoyed reading Dracula. I think it is the very best story of diablerie which I have read for many years. It is really wonderful how with so much exciting interest over so long book there is never an anticlimax.

*SOME CRITICS HAVE GONE SO FAR TO SUGGEST  
THE THREE STORIES PAY TRIBUTE TO STOKER IN  
VARIOUS WAYS.*





**'THE ADVENTURE OF THE SUSSEX VAMPIRE'  
REFERENCED TRANSYLVANIA AND ASPECTS OF  
VAMPIRE LORE AS PRESENTED BY STOKER.**





**THE 'ADVENTURE OF THE ILLUSTRIOUS CLIENT'  
CONTAINED NUMEROUS NAMES, PLACES AND  
EVENTS THAT HINT BACK TO STOKER'S WORK.**





**'THE ADVENTURE OF THE THREE GABLES'  
DESCRIBED THE VILLAINESS, ISADORA KLEIN, AS A  
WOMAN WHO RETAINS YOUTH BEAUTY, AND  
FINANCES AT THE EXPENSE OF HER LOVERS WHO  
SICKEN AND DIE — A FATE SIMILAR TO DRACULA'S  
FEMALE VICTIMS.**





### THE AMERICAN'S TALE.

"It air strange, it air," he was saying as I opened the door of the room where our social little semi-literary society met; "but I could tell you queerer things than that 'ere—almighty queer things. You can't learn everything out of books, sir, nohow. You see it ain't the men as can string English together and as has had good educations as finds themselves in the queer places I've been in. They're mostly rough men, sir, as can scarce speak right, far less tell with pen and ink the things they've seen; but if they could they'd make some of your European's bar air with astonishment. They would, sir, you bet?"

His name was Jefferson Adams, I believe; I know his initials were J. A., for you may see them yet deeply whittled on the right-hand upper panel of our smoking-room door. He left us this legacy, and also some artistic patterns done in tobacco-juice upon our Turkey carpet; but beyond these reminiscences our American storyteller has vanished from our ken. He glanced across our ordinary quiet conviviality like some brilliant meteor, and then was lost in the outer darkness. That night, however, our Nevada friend was in full swing; and I quietly lit my pipe and dropped into the nearest chair, anxious not to interrupt his story.

"Mind you," he continued, "I hain't got no grudge against your men of science. I like and respects a chap as can make every berry and plant, from a huckleberry to a grizzly with a jaw-breakin' name; but if you wants real interestin' facts, something a bit juicy, you go to your whalers and your frontiersmen, and your scouts

and Hudson Bay men, chaps who scarcely can scarce sign their names."

There was a pause here, as Mr. Jefferson Adams produced a long cheroot and lit it. We preserved a strict silence in the room, for we had already learned that on the slightest interruption our Yankee drew himself into his shell again. He glanced round with a self-satisfied smile as he remarked our expectant looks, and continued through a halo of smoke.

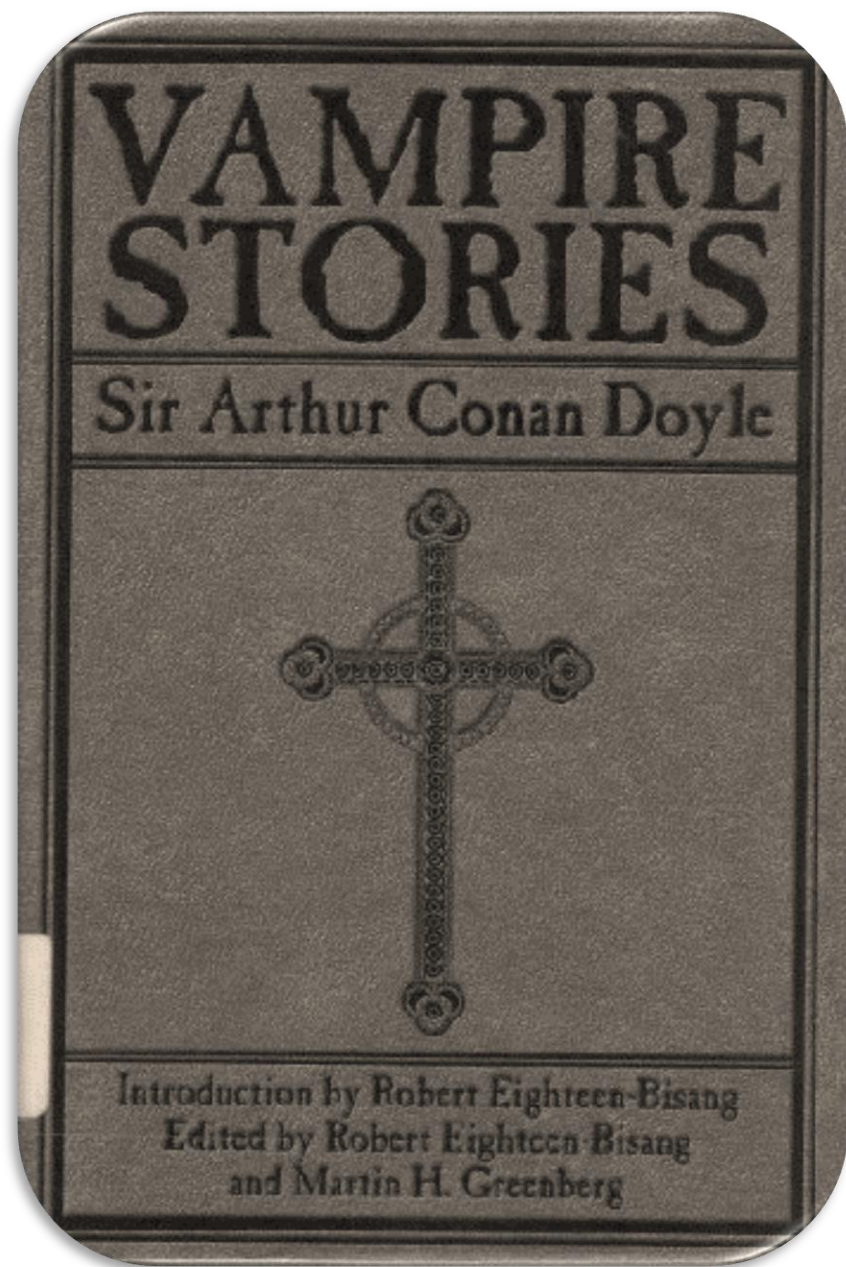
"Now which of you gentlemen has ever been in Arizona? None, I'll warrant. And of all English or Americans as can put pen to paper, how many has been in Arizona? Precious few, I calculate. I've been there, sir, lived there for years; and when I think of what I've seen there, why, I can scarce get myself to believe it now."

"Ah, there's a country! I was one of Walker's filibusters, as they chose to call us; and after we'd busted up, and the chief was shot, some of us made tracks and headed down there. A regular English and American colony, we was, with ourselves and children, and all complete. I reckon there's some of the old folk there yet, and that they hain't forgotten what I'm a-going to tell you. No, I warrant they hain't, never on this side of the grave, sir."

"I was talking about the country, though; and I guess I could astonish you considerable if I spoke of nothing else. To think of such a land being built for a few "Greasers" and half-breeds! It's a misreading of the gifts of Providence, that's what I calls it. Grease as hung over a chap's head as he rode through it, and tress so thick that you couldn't

IN SIX VAMPIRE-LIKE STORIES SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE PENNED BEFORE DRACULA, A VARIETY OF VILLAINS FEED OFF OTHERS' ESSENCE, INCLUDING A GIANT VENUS FLYTRAP...





...('THE AMERICAN'S TALE'), A SPECTER THAT LURES A SHIP CAPTAIN ONTO AN ICE FLOE TO FEAST ON HIS ENERGY, ('THE CAPTAIN OF THE POLE-STAR'), THREE VILLAINS WITH POWERS TO CONTROL OTHERS AND EXTRACT THEIR SPIRIT...







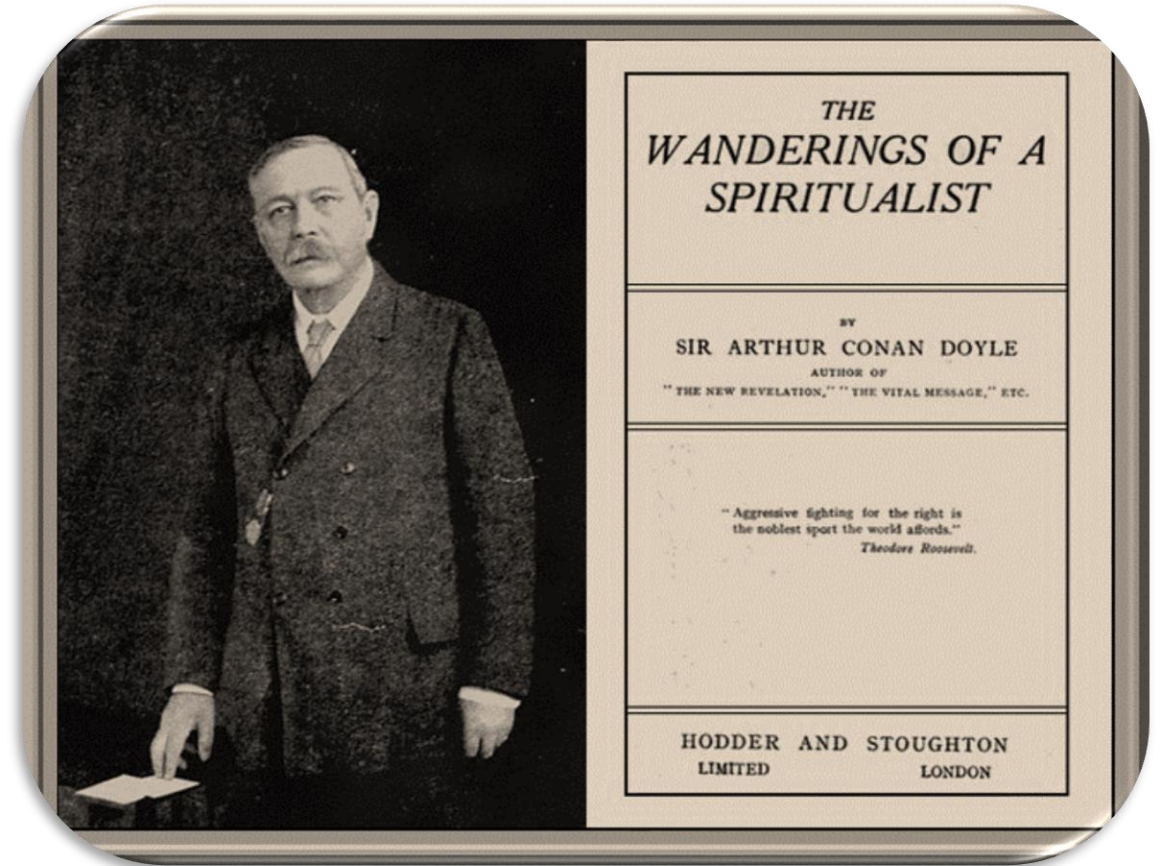
The Ring of Thoth  
by Arthur Conan Doyle

...('JOHN BARRINGTON COWLES'), ('THE WINNING SHOT'), AND ('THE PARASITE'), AND AN EGYPTIAN WHO ACHIEVED IMMORTALITY, ONLY TO SPEND HIS DAYS SEEKING A WAY TO END IT ('THE RING OF TOTH').

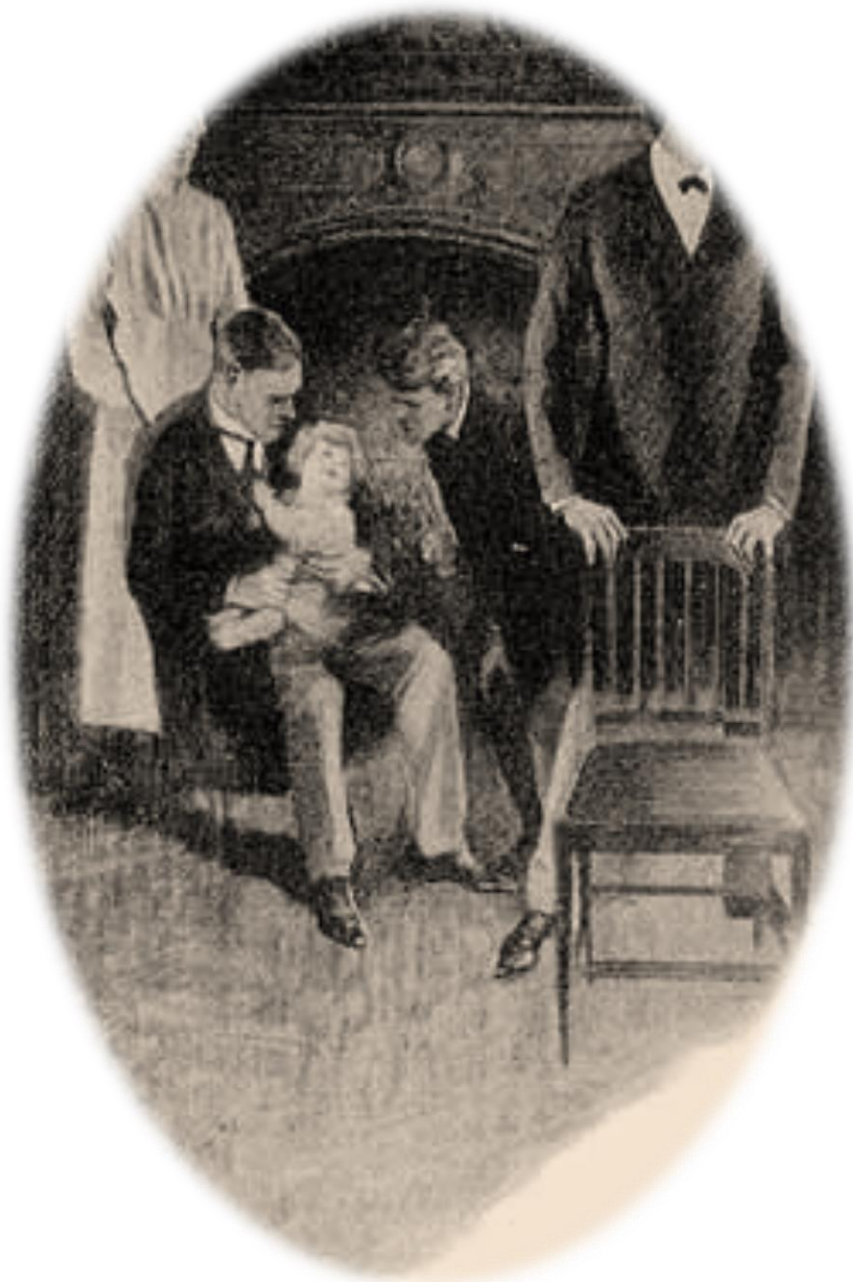




THESE NINE STORIES SERVE AS FURTHER INDICATION OF CONAN DOYLE'S INTEREST IN SPIRITUALISM AND THE SUPERNATURAL AND HIS DEPARTURE FROM THE ATTITUDE AND BELIEFS EXPRESSED BY HIS OWN CREATION.



FOR YOU, TALES OF BEINGS WHO DRAIN OTHERS  
FOR THEIR OWN SURVIVAL WERE 'RUBBISH.'



*DESPITE OUR CREATOR'S OWN PREFERENCES, IN YOUR  
MIND AND WORLD, 'NO GHOSTS NEED APPLY.'*





SO, WE HAVE COMPLETED TOPIC # 044 IN OUR SERIES...

IN TOPIC # 045, WE WILL BE LOOKING AT HOW SNAKES ARE PORTRAYED IN OUR STORIES.



## ORIGINAL SOURCE MATERIAL FOR THIS TOPIC:

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- EIGHTEEN-BISANG, ROBERT AND MARTIN GREENBERG, EDITORS. VAMPIRE STORIES. SKYHORSE PUBLISHING, 2009
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"THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON"

IS CREATED THROUGH THE INGENUITY & HARD WORK OF:

JOE FAY  
LIESE SHERWOOD-FABRE  
RUSTY MASON &  
STEVE MASON

