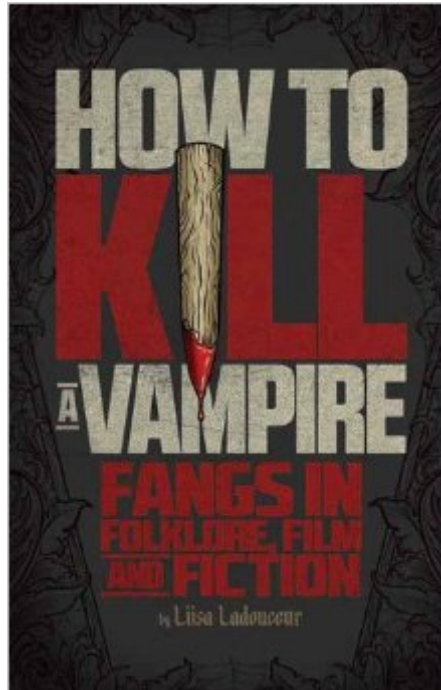


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# How To Kill A Vampire: Fangs In Folklore, Film And Fiction



## Synopsis

Vampires exist. And in every culture with a legend about bloodsuckers that rise from the grave to prey upon the living, there are rules and rituals for how to destroy them. *How to Kill a Vampire* is the first book to focus specifically on all known ways to prevent vampirism, protect oneself against attacks, and ultimately how to destroy the undead, as documented in folklore as well as horror film, TV, and books. Covering everything from obscure legends to contemporary blockbusters, Liisa Ladouceur's unique approach to vampires traces the evolution of how to kill the fictional creatures and celebrates the most important slayers. In exploring how and why we create these monsters and the increasingly complex ways in which we destroy them, the book not only serves as a handy guide to the history and modern role of the vampire, it reveals much about the changing nature of human fears.

## Book Information

Paperback: 216 pages

Publisher: ECW Press (September 1, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 177041147X

ISBN-13: 978-1770411470

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.7 x 8.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (7 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,118,561 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #54 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Genres & Styles > Horror & Supernatural](#) #3160 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Folklore & Mythology](#) #3565 in [Books > Humor & Entertainment > Movies > History & Criticism](#)

## Customer Reviews

Vampire authority and expert on things that go bump in the night, Liisa Ladouceur explores the roots of vampire folklore and follows the trail of blood spatter as vampires creep into 21st century pop culture. The book is an entertaining mix of obscure historical accounts of vampire outbreaks with contemporary pop touchstones like *Buffy* and *True Blood*. All aspects are given equal weight and consideration by an author who clearly loves her subject matter and that enthusiasm pays off in a very satisfying read. Like the famous vampire slayers she profiles, such as Van Helsing, *Buffy* and the Frog Brothers from *Lost Boys*, Ladouceur is the vampire expert you can turn to about the undead.

Ten bucks says she keeps an ashen stake hidden on her person at all times.

Review Courtesy of All Things Urban Fantasy  
**HOW TO KILL A VAMPIRE: FANGS IN FOLKLORE, FILM AND FICTION** is an excellent compilation and analysis of the vampire myth and its evolution from historical folklore to present day pop culture. This book had the folklore nerd in me very happy and I loved reading theories on how the present day vampire became what he/she/it is today. There were tons of morbid stories and details on what people did to stop vampires that had me shocked at the creativity and sometimes savageness of some traditions. While I already knew quite a bit about vampire folkloric origins before I started this book, I was surprised at what I didn't know. For instance, vampires being killed by sunlight was never really a part of any folklore or early vampire fiction. The death by sun part of the myth came from film for a more dramatic death scene in the newly visual medium. What I found even more amazing than the origin of vampire 'death by sun' was the fact that Ladouceur goes on to explain a scientific reason sunlight being harmful to the undead. Continuing her in depth analysis of the vampire myth Ladouceur also contemplates the meaning of life and death for our ancestors and how our changing approach to death and disease has affected the narrative of the vampire in fiction. Her thoughtful analysis really gave me a new perspective on vampires as they relate to our culture and the stories we pass on to each other. **HOW TO KILL A VAMPIRE: FANGS IN FOLKLORE, FILM AND FICTION** is a thought provoking look at the evolution of the vampire through the ages from folklore to film. After reading this book I found myself adding to the list of older vampire movies and books I should pick up and some I want to revisit.

From my book review blog at:[...]Via NetGalley, I was furnished a copy of this book by ECW Press for the purposes of reading and reviewing it. Although it was provided at no cost to me, I am under no obligation to provide a positive review. Let me be completely honest: I love a good vampire story or flick. Yeah, I'm not too keen on the sparkly, angst-filled type, but for the most part I like everything else. Heck, when my twenty year-old was in NICU, I read several of the Fred Saberhagen vampire novels out loud to him. I have several encyclopedias of vampiric lore, so I wasn't sure what new material this book might present. In reality, it didn't. However, it did do a wonderful job of encapsulating one specific subset of information, as the title suggests: how do you kill a vampire and who has been responsible for the grisly task throughout the centuries? The author does a great job of listing the various methods of disposing of suspected vampires, as detailed in folklore, then making comparisons and contrasts with literature and film through the years. She also includes a list

of the most famous vampire slayers, noting their preferred method(s) of eliminating the undead, as well as why they are so well-known. Overall, I really enjoyed this book. The author certainly has done her research, and this comes across as a scholarly offering with just the right amount of humor. Rating: 5 stars (out of 5)

How to Kill A Vampire: Fangs in Folklore, Film, and Fiction by Liisa Ladouceur is a fascinating read. Liisa Ladouceur does an excellent job of summarizing the evolution of Vampires in Film and Fiction. Since I've seen most all vampire movies/tv shows every made, I particularly loved the book's references to the various films. I enjoyed her writing style and definitely loved getting caught up on vampire history, just in time for a Halloween vampire movie marathon. Definitely recommend anyone who loves vampires in modern culture. I received a copy through Goodreads First Reads in exchange for an honest review.

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