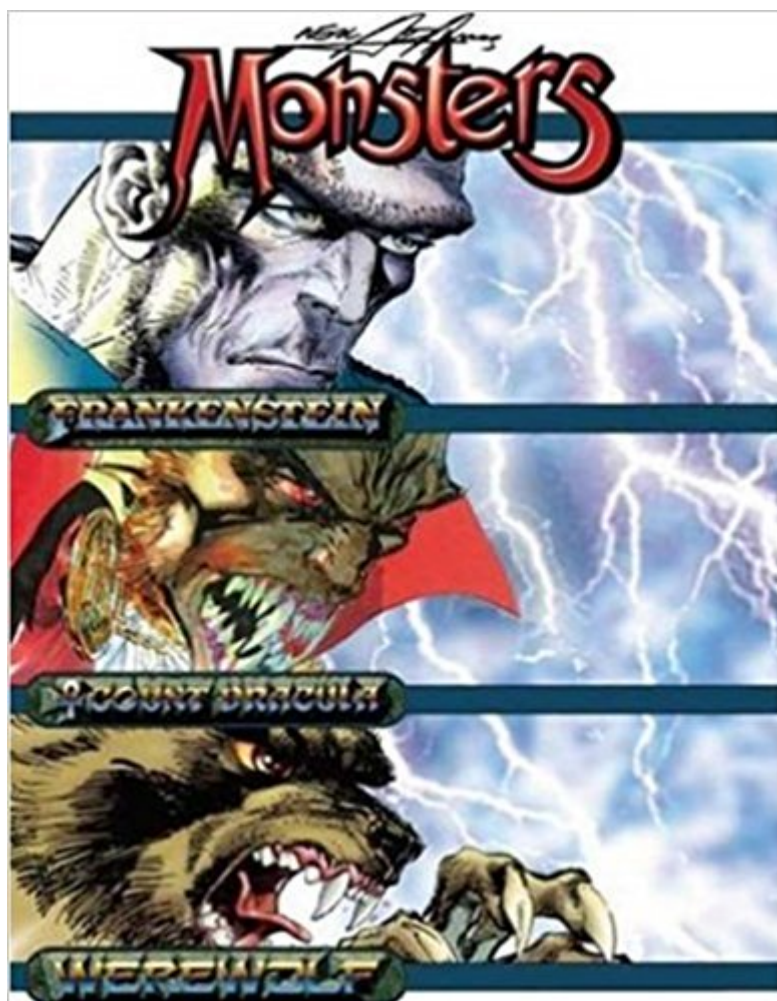


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# Neal Adams Monsters



## Synopsis

An enraged village hungry for blood pursues Vincent, the nephew assistant of the now-dead Doctor Frankenstein, and his fiancée Erika. From out of nowhere, Prince Vlad rescues the terrified young couple. But Vlad is, in fact, Dracula, and he has a sinister purpose. If he has an unstoppable creature like the Frankenstein monster, his safety will be assured. To get this, Vlad holds Erika for ransom. The monster is created then kills Erika but a werewolf's bite brings her back. The scene is set for a battle of pitiless monsters.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Legendary '70s superhero comic artist Adams has put his version of a classic monster movie into a graphic novel, and the result is an expensively produced storyboard for a hoped-for movie project. The characters—a vampire nobleman, a scientifically created monster, a werewolf—are inspired by the classic Universal horror films, but their designs are different for trademark reasons. A young couple, pursued by a pack of wolves, is saved by a mysterious Prince Vlad and taken to his lonely castle. The rescued man is the nephew of the infamous Baron Frankenstein, so Vlad holds his fiancée hostage to force him to build another monster. The girl almost dies but is instead turned into a werewolf, in a chapter that seems like it was imported from another story altogether. The artistic approach, with pages saturated with computer color, works against the classic style. The pages are busy and full, and readers' eyes will struggle to find a place to rest as a result. Modern layout effects also work against the purple prose (the most frequently used punctuation is the

ellipsis) and old-fashioned storytelling style. The book concludes with a selection of Adams's sketches from various horror films and covers from random monster-related comic books he illustrated. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Neal Adams is the legendary illustrator and storyteller behind Batman and X-Men. He is the author of Neal Adams: The Sketch Book.

This book came out about the same time as the Van Helsing movie. If only they had adapted THIS story they might have had some hope of a good movie. The best monster mash since the HBO 97 House of Frankenstein mini series. Lots of fun for all us classic monster fans. this was obviously a labor of love for Mr Adams. All I will say is THANK YOU very much. I leave the critics to stew in their unhappy juices. I had a blast with this book when I used it for Christmas presents last year. Now this one is for ME!!! Happy happy joy joy! JPF

We have since the dawn of time had history recounts of knights killing dragons and in mythology heroes killing monsters out of sheer bravery of doing a heroic deed. This however went further than just a knight killing a dragon or a mythical hero hunting and killing a monster, this was an ancestral way of the survival mechanism the food chain that starts from kill or be killed. This is something that went before mythology this is back in prehistoric times where survival predator-prey was essential not only for survival of the species but also for evolutionary development in progression of life getting bigger and larger than ever. Vampires need blood for survival their instinct is to kill; we in turn they need to counter that attack from us for our survival. Relationships between the history of monsters and humans has varied through the centuries it has been a necessity in living for these things for a variety of reasons mythology, folklore, and religion science are for one. It relates mostly to the Food chains and food webs that are representations of the predator-prey relationships between species within an ecosystem or habitat that need each other. A food web is a series of related food chains displaying the movement of energy and matter throughout an ecosystem. The primary consumer is eaten by another animal which is called the secondary consumer which may be eaten by a tertiary consumer and so on. This pathway of energy transfer from one organism to another constitutes a food chain. These animals utilize this energy for their own metabolic activities. Here again some of the energy is released as heat. When primary consumers are eaten by secondary consumers, the same process is repeated at every step of the food chain. We can

identify this with vampires and werewolves and other notable monsters such as Frankenstein; in that we have simply taken them and dramatized them in a way that is more appealing to understand them more. The medieval saw monsters and giants as mythical creatures sent by God to do his bidding for killing. The Greeks and Romans viewed monsters as prodigies sent to warn of impending calamities. Bram Stoker's *Dracula* for example reveals not only a ravenous blood drinking monster but also an erotic characterization of the handsome count himself. *Dracula* was always depicted as a sexually attractive force giving rise to the fear and mayhem that ensued with all the dramatization and folklore surrounding him as a fabled winged creature. Allowing all the superstitious frightened townspeople to take justice in their own hands and kill at will all the flying winged creatures that resembled vampires. In all these well known stories such as *Dracula*, *Frankenstein*, and the werewolf, we invite these so called monsters to what we are able to then repudiate from them in a manner that's befittingly the necessity. Monsters stand as symbols of human vulnerability especially in times of crisis they play imaginative surreal roles in our society creating the individuals needed to foil these disaster attempts. Throughout time we have all known that there is a werewolf in all of us and that all that is needed is a necessary time for him to exit from us. From the dawn of time we have had heroes to battle these monsters, they have changed, their manner has changed but they are still with us, we feel safe knowing they are there, to protect us. Because we continue with these monsters to better prepare ourselves for facing our enemies. Neil Adams' book *Monsters* is a reimagining of these three powerful surreal forces that we have grown to know so well. He was able to portray each individual with his own strength and weaknesses. We were able to witness that not all monsters are totally barren of compassion and intelligence; we witnessed our own making of monsters by our own expectations and our own desire to control them as individuals. This was a graphic book with artwork that only Neil Adams can produce in which 3 epic horror legends are in one and are explored in a way that was befitting to the characters themselves. This was much more than a graphic novel, this was in essence a true meaning of the predator-prey relationship between each other it was a portrayal of these legends and how we as people see them and how we survive within their ecosystem and their food chain. The graphic novella is a depiction of survival of the fittest within each species eco-system and their means of survival for it. And its trail is blazingly way ahead of its time in terms of advanced computer digital horror art work which is beautifully rendered in this book!

**Neal Adams Monsters** Neal Adams was recognised as an instant master when his rendition of Batman smashed his way into mainstream comics in the early 70s. His life-like portrayal of super

heroes helped elevate comic art back into a respectable medium bringing passion and drama into characters not taken seriously before. His influence cannot be overstated, ranking him with Ditco, Kirby, and Frazetta as the best of the best. "Monsters" was published during the time Universal was resurrecting their Classic Monster Series on DVD. It is a totally original work that harkens back to those Gothic glories with Adams adding his personal flare for action and hyper-realism. The panels flow like a story board. I found myself grinning ear to ear as I turned each page. I will say nothing of the story but this. This is the movie that "Van Helsing" SHOULD have been. The monsters did not need to be amplified into caricatures of themselves. They were treated with the same respect seen in their original screen versions. It was as if Universal and Hammer teamed up and added ILM to finally do it right. Unlike many recent films, Adams did not chuck out the baby with the bath. He kept each mythos intact without additions or cheats. The only thing wrong with this book is that it did not last a hundred pages or more. It would have been worth whatever price they asked! "Monsters" is proof that Frankenstein, Dracula, and the Wolf Man are truly immortal. Hopefully we will be gifted with sequels. Or maybe even, More Monsters?! How about it, Neal? John Fischner

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