

AIRASIA INFLIGHT MAGAZINE

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TRAVEL 3SIXTY

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Udon Thani,
Thailand

PHI TA KON

Sebu Lake,
Philippines

LAND OF THE DREAM- WEAVERS

Touchdown

LOMBOK, INDONESIA

Chengdu, China

RISING ART

Laos

WATER FOR ELEPHANTS

Bangkok

RETURN OF DON MUEANG

PASSAGE THROUGH MIYANMAR

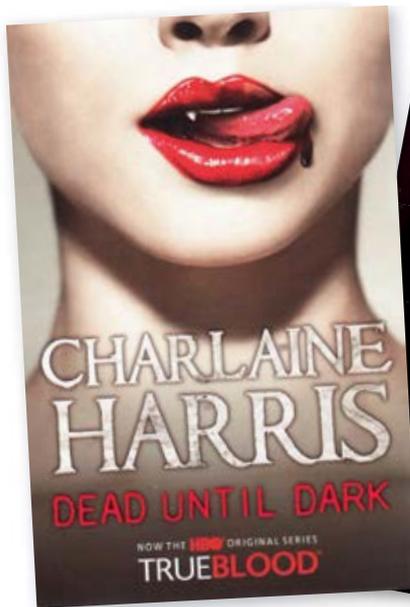
HELP SAVE THE
EARTH. READ
THE MAGAZINE
ONLINE AND STOP
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2012

BLOODY BOOKS

Why is the world thirsty for vampire tales? In conjunction with Halloween at the end of this month, we sink our teeth into vampire literature to unearth the secret to their allure, and bring you goose bump-inducing reads.



THE VAMP

You can't mention the 'V' word without inviting thoughts of brooding bloodsucker Edward Cullen from Stephanie Meyer's popular *Twilight* series or, the sensual fanged beings from Charlaine Harris' *Southern Vampire Mysteries*, which inspired the TV series *True Blood*.

Tales of vampires, however, have existed since medieval times, long before the advent of vampiric paranormal romance novels. Once thought of as vile monsters, the vamp legend has evolved through the ages, and is still being reinvented. In fact, this vamp craze seems to be just as immortal as the beings themselves; clearly it'll take more than a well-aimed stake to stamp out these beings of the night!

So, what draws writers to re-imagine vampires, and keeps readers lusting for more? In an interview with *The Star-Ledger*, Anne Rice – whose famous gothic novel *Interview with the Vampire* portrays vampires as sensitive anti-heroes wrestling with a crisis of conscience – called vampires articulate and charming. "The vampire is the poet and the writer of the monster world."

Such romanticism is echoed by Stephanie Meyers who attributes its appeal to a dual nature. In an interview with blogger Cynthia Leitch Smith, she said, "Certainly they are frightening and deadly, but they are also alluring. They are often attractive, rich, powerful, and educated. The paradox there

makes them hard to resist, at least as subjects for stories."

One of the earliest writings to depict the vampire as charismatic and sophisticated was *The Vampyre* by

John Polidori in 1819, which influenced later works like the 1847 penny dreadful *Varney the Vampire* and Bram Stoker's *Dracula*. In an 1897 interview published in *British Weekly*, Stoker said: "It is undoubtedly a very fascinating theme, since it touches both on mystery and fact. In the Middle Ages, the terror of the vampire depopulated whole

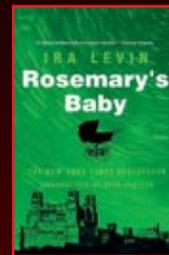
villages." Nevertheless, Stoker's erotic tale of the powerful, seductive and charming Count Dracula has fuelled the imagination of millions. As the quintessential vampire novel, *Dracula* laid the foundation for modern vamp fiction, and spawned the vampire genre. Another important vampire work is Joseph Sheridan Le Fanu's *Carmilla*, a 19th century gothic novella with lesbian undercurrents whose title character became a prototype for lesbian vampires.

In Asia, vampire folklore is just as prolific with numerous tales of Malaysia's *pontianak*, Indonesia's *kuntilanak*, Philippines' *mandurugo*, the Chinese *jiang shi*, Thailand's *phi song nang* and countless other vampire-like creatures. The prevalence of vampire narratives across cultures is considered by Jungian scholars a reflection of issues that are universal; there's something about the vampire that comes from deep within the human psyche. Carl Jung believed that the vampire is an expression of repressed wishes, anti-social impulses, morally questionable motives and other traits perceived to be shameful. In Margaret L. Shanahan's essay *Psychological Perspectives on Vampire Mythology*, she says "This Jungian interpretation of the vampire image provided significant insight into the enormous popularity of vampire stories. From this point of view, a vampire lives within each of us."

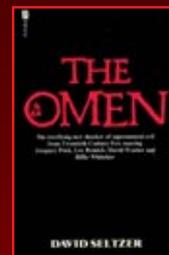
CHILLIN' CLASSICS



► William Peter Blatty's book *The Exorcist* chronicles a mother's desperate attempts to save her daughter from the clutches of demonic possession.



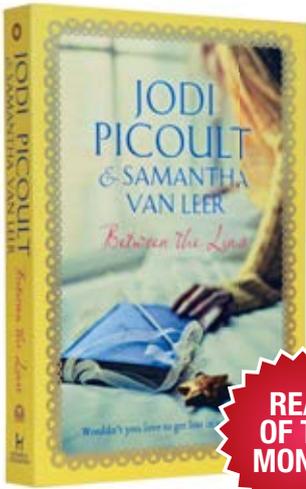
► *Rosemary's Baby* by Ira Levin was inspired by Anton LaVey's Church of Satan, and revolves around a young mother's fear that her neighbours intend to sacrifice her child to the devil.



► *The Omen* by David Seltzer was based on Seltzer's screenplay for the movie, and draws from Biblical prophecies that foretell the birth of the Anti-Christ.



► Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* is a horror story about a hideous monster created through an unorthodox scientific experiment.



BETWEEN THE LINES

Jodi Picoult & Samantha Van Leer

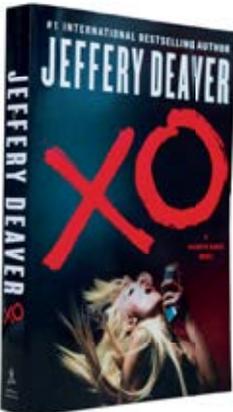
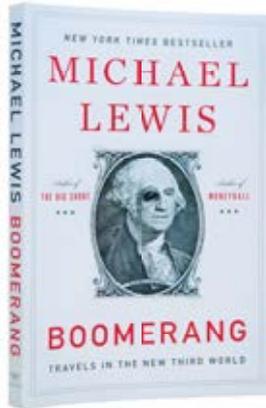
If you've ever finished reading a novel and wished the story would never end, you'll love this imaginative young adult book by Jodi Picoult and her daughter. In *Between the Lines*, a fairytale prince, who lives a life beyond the pages he's been written into, asks a 15-year-old reader to help him break out of his book so he can live in the world of readers.

READ OF THE MONTH!

BOOMERANG: TRAVELS IN THE NEW THIRD WORLD

Michael Lewis

If you liked Lewis' *The Big Short* and *Moneyball*, you'll love his latest offering, which navigates the world of credit default swaps and sovereign debt with his signature wit and fascinating storytelling.



XO

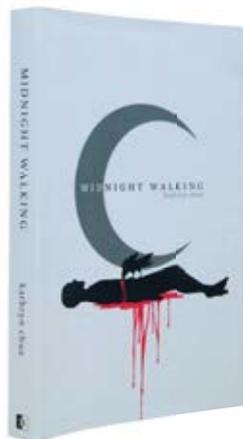
Jake Olefsky

When the attentions of an obsessive and delusional fan turns dangerous for country-pop star, Kayleigh Towne, California Bureau of Investigation Agent Kathryn Dance must stop the stalker before it's too late.

MIDNIGHT WALKING

Kathryn Chua

An ordinary teenager, Lucy Pine has no idea that the crow she rescues is actually a being called Cyrus who drains the souls of young girls. Soon, Lucy finds herself in grave danger.



HUMEIRAH

Sabah Carrim

Feeling alienated, restless and unhappy, Humeirah struggles to understand her purpose and destiny in life, unveiling a journey of self exploration.

HAUNTING DEBUT



Travel 3Sixty talks to Sandi Tan about her dark debut novel, *The Black Isle*, which is filled with paranormal encounters.

INSPIRATION

A line checked into my head and refused to leave: "I was seven years old when I saw my first ghost." I knew there had to be a book in there. And then the scenes just started appearing; it became an avalanche! Along the way, I was helped by old archival photos and Alexandre Desplat's soundtrack for the film *Birth*.

PARANORMAL AGENDA

I think the best ghost stories are the ones that aren't just about phantoms but the things that really haunt us: Loves lost, scores unsettled, things left unsaid – the past. My heroine, Cassandra, is a deeply haunted woman. She not only sees the dead, she is plagued with memories from her passionate, tumultuous youth.

UNCONVENTIONAL HEROINE

Purely as chronological reference, I gave her my grandmother's birth year: 1922, but she's nothing like her. Cassandra is a creation of wishful imagining! I've long been frustrated by the Asian heroines found in novels. They tend to be driven by oppression or grievance, or else they're obsessed with finding a husband. I wanted to create a heroine that was modern, with her own aspirations, desires and flaws; a vivid heroine that the contemporary audience can relate to.

GREATEST FEARS

Oh, that's a cruel question to ask a writer! Our fears are legion! The worst thing that could happen to a writer, worse than writer's block, is the loss of patience. I fear losing patience. Writing a book is a lengthy, solitary activity. Without patience and perseverance, you may have the best story in the world but you'll never be able to sit down and get it out for the world to know it.

FAVOURITE WRITERS

William Faulkner and V.S. Naipaul. They write about places with an unparalleled vividness, which means they write with both love and hate. I consider their works 3D novels. They transport you.

