



Blood Countess a Novel

By Codrescu

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An erotic and terrifying portrait of Elizabeth Bathory follows her real-life sixteenth-century reign of torture and murder, in a chilling novel that journeys into the heart of evil by one of the Hungarian countess's descendants. Read by Andrei Codrescu.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

A folk belief that on bitter cold nights the stars come down to mate with wolves. An adolescent boy, sexually aroused by an "iron maiden" torture device. The smell of paprika and boiled chicken served with Tokay wine. These and other vivid images of Hungary in the 16th century, and Hungary today, swirl together amid scenes of luxury and barbarity and talk of Martin Luther's Christianity and post-Communist ideals in this gloriously gruesome novel inspired by the life of Countess Elizabeth Bathory. They say she killed 650 virgin girls in order to rejuvenate herself with their blood.

From Publishers Weekly

NPR commentator and filmmaker Codrescu's first novel alternates between a pathological 16th-century Hungarian countess and her present-day descendant, a journalist seeking to come to grips with contemporary Europe.

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From Library Journal

This thriller simultaneously tells the stories of Countess Elizabeth Bathory of Hungary (1560-1613) and her descendant Drake Bathory-Kerestur with the narrative alternating between the two. Elizabeth, beautiful, intelligent, and powerful, amuses herself with wicked, bizarre activities, among them torturing and killing virgins and bathing in their blood, a practice she thinks will keep her youthful. Bathory-Kerestur believes her power reaches beyond the grave and has compelled him to strangle the daughter of his first love. A poet, editor of *Exquisite Corpse*, and contributor to National Public Radio, Codrescu has created a chilling gothic tale full of blood, sex, and evil; it amuses and at the same time repulses. Codrescu and Suzanne Bertish read with a matter-of-fact calm, imparting a frightening realism to the cruel, inhuman acts they describe. Codrescu's accent further adds to the effect. The production quality is excellent. Recommended for those who enjoy skillful writing and are not put off by sex and violence. Nancy R. Ives, SUNY at Geneseo
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Users Review

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Diane Williams:

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Carmen Helton:

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