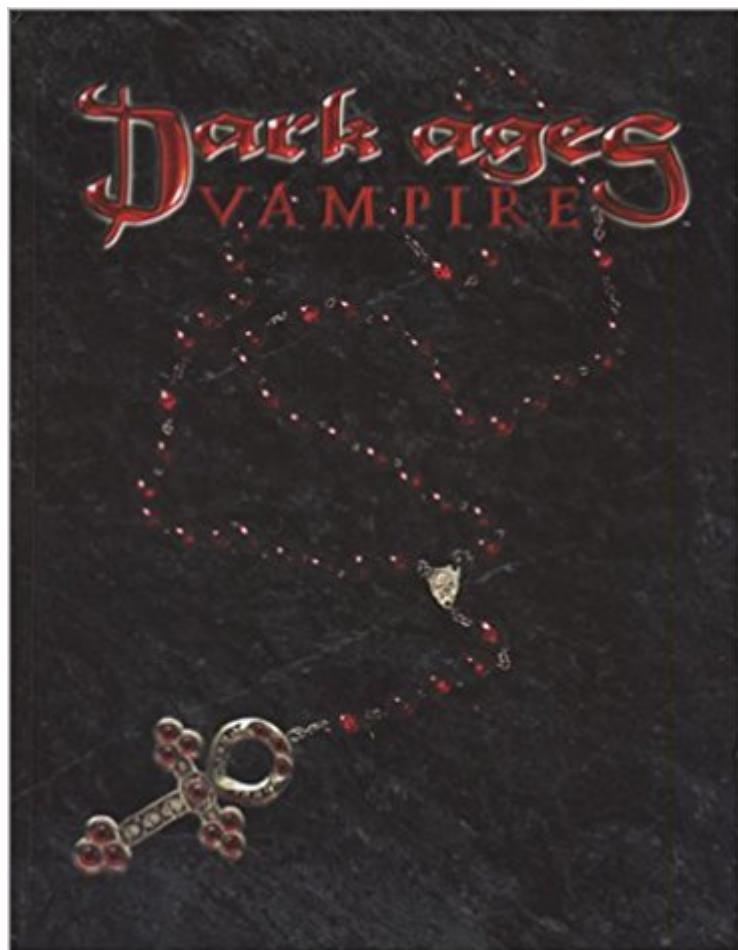


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Dark Ages Vampire (Vampire: The Dark Ages)



Synopsis

Book by White Wolf Staff, Bruce Baugh, Michael Butler, Chris Hartford, Jim Kiley, Adam Tinworth

Book Information

Hardcover: 315 pages

Publisher: White Wolf Publishing (July 15, 2002)

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Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (9 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,135,963 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #66 in [Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Gaming > World of Darkness > Vampire](#) #178 in [Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Gaming > World of Darkness > General](#) #14149 in [Books > Humor & Entertainment > Puzzles & Games](#)

Customer Reviews

Once again, White Wolf has made its previous output on the Vampire franchise obsolete! Dark Ages: Vampire is that good. It incorporates the best changes from Vampire the Masquerade since that title was re-edited several years ago and expands upon it. The vampires in Dark Ages have much more potential than those in the Gothic Punk setting: you can choose from several viable moral systems rather than be restricted to one. Vampires are more powerful since disciplines can be brought up to six rather than five. The Dark Ages feel is much better represented here than in the previous Vampire: the Masquerade book, and the artwork is superb. I was a big fan of the latest edition of Vampire: the Masquerade, but I have to admit that I think that title has been topped by the Dark Ages: Vampire core book. It remains to be seen whether the supporting books to follow will be as good.

From the get go, White Wolf shows why they are on top of this industry with their intial revamp of the Dark Ags line. DA: Vampire hammers a home run with the artistic layouts and eye catching images found within. New and interesting spins are offered that were either barely touched on in the original incarnation or non existant to begin with. Some rules are updated and others expanded upon (like Mortis and the Road paths). However, what keeps this book from being a 5 star knock out is it's

stunning lack of future premonitions that were prevalent in the earlier edition. Leaving some of those key elements up to the previous book to cover was bad form on the writers part and it's exclusion kills much of the depth the original DA book had. Ending summary: The good: New information and new spins on the clans, roads, and disciplines. Compelling artwork and layouts. The bad: The way the previous book was largely written off. Key elements from the old book would have enhanced this DA product immensely. It wouldn't have hurt to have some definitive "set in stone" issues resolved like the origins of the Tremere (hinted at being servants to the Tzimisce) and the final fate of the Cappadocians. While White Wolf is known for their contradictory storylines and comments within their own books, at least previous books took a stance. The notable lack thereof in this one is fairly glaring. All in all though, a top notch book. A definite replacement to its predecessor. Just don't throw the old book away as the two can work well together in a main book/companion type of role.

This book is a wonderful introduction to the revised Dark Ages line. I approach every single book less like a player and more like an aficionado of the World of Darkness product line. I like the background and "fluff" more than the mechanics and how it applies to the roleplaying. In this regard, the book is rich in information about each of the clans and how they fit into Medieval times. The artwork is visually appealing, which is something I cannot say about some of the clanbooks. If you acquire this book and like it, I would recommend collecting the follow-up volumes 'Guide to the Low Clans' & 'Guide to the High Clans', each of which "flesh-out" each clan and their identity during that period of time. If you were looking for a review on the mechanics and how this applies to roleplaying, et cetera ad infinitum ... I apologize because I only look that over for ideas I can use in an entirely different genre of game play ;) But from what I did look over, it is well written and easy enough to understand for someone who isn't a bona fide roleplayer (let alone a diehard gamer).

As I expected, this is another great release from White Wolf. It fleshes out the Dark Ages setting a lot better than the last edition. But that's now what this review is about. Why only three stars for such a great book? The binding is a serious problem. The physical book has obviously been skimped upon. Open it, the binding cracks audibly. I give it a month until I start losing pages, and I take good care of my books. I've asked around, and it's definitely not just my copy. They're all defective in the same way. Very disappointing.

It is a very style-oriented book that has little or nothing to do with the Dark Ages. Much of the history of the world is ignored in favor of fantasy that would make the world we live in very different.

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