

## Good Lady Ducayne

In the roster of vampires, Adeline Ducayne, the Good Lady Ducayne, is the polar opposite of Dracula: human where he is monstrous, physically frail where he is powerful, from within English society where he is an outsider; but most importantly, where Dracula is an echo of superstitions past, Ducayne's brand of vampirism hails from the science of her times. Indeed, the very medical procedure by which Van Helsing desperately tried to save Lucy Westenra is the mechanism for Lady Ducayne's predations.

The record of Ducayne's crimes is found in the account of Mary Elizabeth Braddon. Around a hundred years old - she was born in 1793 - and intensely afraid of death, she enlisted the aid of Leopold Parravicini, an Italian doctor, to prolong her life. Taking a succession of companions, she had Parravicini chloroform and bleed them before treating the blood and transfusing it into Ducayne herself - her position allowed her escape any questions from employment agencies about how and why girls who were chosen specifically for their good health inevitably sickened and died soon after entering her service. This pattern only came to an end when another doctor, Herbert Stafford, deduced the nature of Parravicini's treatment and blackmailed Ducayne into releasing her current victim, and taking no more (at least no more from Britain).

How this account came into Braddon's hands is up to the director, but the text and its origin suggest some possibilities for Edom involvement. *Good Lady Ducayne* was written in the same year as *Dracula*, and Braddon and Stoker were lifelong friends. Lady Ducayne may have been another lead pursued by Edom in its early days, and the record given to Braddon to provide it similar deniability as *Dracula* did for the 1894 operation. In this light, the profile of Bella Rolleston, the victim during the story - vigorously healthy, but too unskilled and uneducated to appeal to most prospective employers of Ducayne's station - smacks of being the cover for a (remarkably courageous) agent. Likewise, the abrupt climax and Stafford's demand could imply an operation being wound up.

Alternatively, Braddon was acquainted with Stafford or Rolleston (Mrs Stafford as she later became), and learned of these events from them. Either discovering that Ducayne was continuing to take British victims, or being less willing than the Staffords to leave her free to prey on girls elsewhere, Braddon published the account as the only warning she was in a position to make.

While Lady Ducayne kept her word regarding Bella Rolleston, she was surely too obsessed with escaping death, and Dr Parravicini too obsessed with perfecting his treatment, to keep any vow about ending their experiments. Be it in Britain, Italy, or elsewhere, they must have carried on. Officially, Lady Ducayne died in 1899, and Dr Parravicini four years later. Unofficially...

**Independent:** An independent Ducayne may have little agenda beyond continuing to live and maintaining the kind of privileged lifestyle she enjoyed before the world left nobility behind. Her wealth - passed onto herself through blind "inheritances," or squirreled away in an institution like Burdett's Private Bankers (*DH*, p. 143) - takes care of the latter. Access to a supply of runaways, trafficking victims, or even blood-drive volunteers takes care of the former. She employs a few agents to take care of the logistics of such matters, but she and Parravicini keep their circle as small as they can.

If she wants more than that, time and wealth can buy her influence much as they can for any vampire, and lacking almost any of the banes of a real vampire helps avoid the notice of those who might otherwise hunt her. A Ducayne of this stripe is a high society power-player, investor in cutting-edge medical technologies, and potential ally (or at least informant) in the hunting of competing vampires.

Beyond that, if Parravicini's treatment has been refined to the point of restoring lost youth, the two live a jet-setting lifestyle; if not, a sedate one. They could turn up in connection to the Art Forecaster (*DH*, p. 103), Hungarian (*DH*, p. 94), Petroleum Executive (*DH*, p. 127), Pharmaceutical Researcher (*DH*, p. 128), Caldwell Foundation (*DH*, p. 160), or Nox Therapeutics (*DH*, p. 162); or could be the centre of a small cluster of nodes across Italy (*DH*, p. 238).

**Edom:** It's Parravicini's process that would be of interest to Edom, not Lady Ducayne herself. From that standpoint, the two are probably long dead, and Agents will be coming across the Apparatus (see below) and younger research subjects. On the other hand, Ducayne was also wealthy and connected - enough that Edom could have recruited her on that basis. If Lady Ducayne is a member of Edom, she is most likely one of its highest-ranking officials - perhaps even D (she has the name for it, after all).

A grander possibility is that Lady Ducayne *founded* Edom. If so, then the approach to Dracula was motivated by interest in vampiric immortality as much as the value of a vampiric asset, though she quickly discounted it as an attractive option. In this case, Ducayne is still D to this day, while Parravicini is the true identity behind Dr Drawes. Expect to find her in Ring (*DH*, p. 172), Seward's Asylum (*DH*, p. 195), off duty in Sotheby's (*DH*, p. 198), or visiting "Van Sloan" (*DH*, p. 87).

Regardless, if Edom has gotten hold of Lady Ducayne or the secret of Parravicini's treatments, it will have been shared with its inner circle. D, Dr Drawes, their immediate subordinates, and perhaps even some of the Dukes may - barring a phase in Edom's history where such practices were quashed - be blood-taking immortals themselves. Some of the originals from the 1894 operation may still be alive - after all, Lady Ducayne's brand of vampirism is at least one way for Mina Harker to avoid succumbing to Dracula's.

**AISI:** Any value Ducayne and/or Parravicini could have to Edom they could also have a similar organisation in Italy. If an Italian group of that kind survived being plundered by Germany during World War Two, and by Edom afterwards, it may have found a nest in the AISI.

**Conspiracy:** The Braddon Account makes it clear that Lady Ducayne was unsatisfied with Dr Parravicini's treatments, and was looking for other ways to extend her life. Given enough desperation - and some lucky (or unlucky) acquisition of information - she may have turned to Dracula. An English noblewoman with a fortune and properties on mainland Europe could have proven a tempting recruit for the Count, as could a doctor specialising in the study of blood.

If Ducayne or Parravicini are part of the conspiracy, they have most likely been turned into vampires (replace the powers and statistics below with those of the 1894 Vampire (*DH*, p. 53)). Ducayne will be used to bankroll local nodes and operatives, as well as safe houses and couriers. Parravicini will be employed for scientific and supernatural research - if the Moldavian Process from the Edom Files is used as part of the campaign, Parravicini will probably have worked in it.

**The Van Helsing Connection:** Dr Parravicini and Professor Van Helsing are similar in both age and (known) skill-set. They're not similar enough in any other way to suggest making them the same man, but they may well have been acquaintances or even colleagues. Correspondence between them may be used as mutual clues. Finding letters from Van Helsing in the effects of Parravicini may direct the Agents to Van Helsing's house in Amsterdam (*DH*, p. 243), or else suggest that the good Professor wasn't who he represented himself as to Dr Seward and the other hunters. Letters found in Van Helsing's house may alert Agents to Parravicini's significance, or reveal that there was more than simple blood transfusion to Lucy Westenra's treatment. Either way, such documents may contain details of the two men's studies.

## Powers and Statistics

Lady Ducayne and Dr Parravicini are still human, so their blood treatments grant them very little in the way of preternatural power. Though very little is not quite the same as none. Powers in square brackets are optional: not implied by the original story, but appropriate for the Dracula Dossier setting.

**Immortality:** As long as they continue to receive blood, Lady Ducayne and Dr Parravicini are immune to the effects of aging, illness or toxins, including infection by telluric bacteria.

**Investigative Abilities:** Fringe Science 3, Human Terrain 3

**General Abilities:** Aberrance 5, Hand-to-Hand 2, Health 10, Shooting 3, Weapons 1

**Hit Threshold:** 3

**Alertness Modifier:** +2

**Stealth Modifier:** 0

**Damage Modifier:** -2 (normal human)

**Free Powers:** Regeneration (all damage over the course of a day - off-screen) [Electrical Senses (*DH*, p. 59; ascertains the health of anyone nearby, but cannot detect faraway movement)]

**Other Powers:** [Electrical Distortion (*DH*, p. 59), Send to Sleep]

**Banes:** Can be killed by normal means [Destructive Resonance (*DH*, p. 60)]

**Blocks:** [Discontinuities (*DH*, p. 60; less severe than for a telluric vampire, must spend 1 Aberrance to pass)]

**Compulsions:** None

**Dreads:** None

**Requirements:** Inject blood via the Parravicini Apparatus; all human needs also remain

## Parravicini Apparatus

**Appearance:** The Apparatus consists of a thick needle and tube connected to a glass vessel, in which sits a thick sludge (**Chemistry** identifies this as at least partly a bacterial colony - if the Agents have come across telluric bacteria, **Vampirology** confirms that these are the bacteria in question). Two electrodes lead into the vessel, able to pass a current through the blood and sludge as they come into contact (this is the source of the whirring sound Bella Rolleston reported hearing when the Apparatus was used on her). A filter and valve lead out, separating the blood from the sludge and passing it into a second vessel. This second vessel has another tube and needle leading from it.

All these components, including a capacitor to the power the electrodes, are held together in a metal frame a little smaller than one cubic foot. A single Agent could easily carry it at a walk or slow run, but not for anything requiring **Athletics**.

**Supposed History:** Dr Parravicini assembled the prototype of his Apparatus in 1887, and continued to refine the design throughout his association with Lady Ducayne. After his death in 1903, the Apparatus passed into the hands of a second cousin Orazio. Orazio Parravicini was no doctor, and cared little what became of the ghoulish machine; a laborious trawl through old papers indicates that he sold it to an unnamed German party in 1906, marking the end of the trail.

**Major Item:** If the Parravicini Apparatus is a Major Item, then the aim of immortality has been achieved - and perhaps also that of restored youth. Recipients of a blood transfusion temporarily gain the powers listed above (how temporarily is up the director, though judging by the Braddon Account, Lady Ducayne's victims tended to last for a few months). While under the influence of a treatment, the recipient does not physically age.

If the Director decides the Apparatus also restores youth, the recipient grows younger by one year per point of health transferred, until reaching their physical prime - note that this effect is not under the control of the user or recipient and can't be turned off (though an earlier prototype lacking it might still exist). Note also that such restoration persists even if the other effects are allowed to lapse.

**Minor Item:** Either Dr Parravicini's experiments weren't successful in extending life, or this particular device is a rudimentary precursor from before they bore fruit. Nevertheless, it still benefits from his considerable learning about diseases of the blood. While the Apparatus imparts no preternatural qualities to the recipient of a blood transfusion, it does cleanse the transferred blood of any toxins or bacterial infections - including telluric bacteria, though Agents could be forgiven for not putting that to the test.

**Fraudulent:** The device found by the Agents has no connection to Dr Parravicini - it may simply be a fake, or it may be the work of another party trying unsuccessfully to replicate his work. **Mechanics**, used as an Investigative Ability, determines that the most of the components date from no earlier than the 1910's, while **Chemistry** identifies the sludge in the glass vessel as a mass of mildly toxic (and largely dead) fungi. If it were cleaned, the device could still be used for a blood transfusion in a pinch, though Agents would be better off with real medical gear.

**Connections:** The Apparatus may be in the possession of the Enigmatic Monsignor (*DH*, p. 114), in the archives of the Caldwell Foundation (*DH*, p. 160) or Nox Therapeutics (*DH*, p. 162), locked away in Ring (*DH*, p. 172) or a vault beneath the Munich Dead House (*DH*, p. 226), or left in Van Helsing's House (*DH*, p. 243).

## Parravicini Notes

**Appearance:** These comprise several thick, but cheaply bound journals, covering the years 1885 to 1900 (the volume covering the second half of 1887 has fallen apart, and the pages are bound together with string - fortunately all are present). The writing is in Italian, clear and legible, and accompanied by sketches and chemical formulas.

**Supposed History:** The journals cover the latter few years of Dr Parravicini's research, the development of his blood transfusion Apparatus, and most of his association with Lady Duayne. After his death, they passed into the hands of a second cousin Orazio. Orazio Parravicini donated most of Leopold's collection of books to the Classene Library of Ravenna; perhaps the Notes were among them, and are still there.

**Major Item:** Careful study of the Notes (1-point spends from each of **Chemistry**, **Mechanics**, **Medic**, and **Vampirology**, not necessarily at the same time or by the same person - though everyone who contributes must be able to read Italian) would allow the construction of a functioning Apparatus so long as a sample of the right kind of bacteria can be sourced. As the Notes contain all the prior work leading up to Parravicini's eventual success, they can be used to construct a not quite final version of the Apparatus, should the student wish to have a version that doesn't make the recipient younger.

The Notes are still of use to those uninterested in building their own vampire machine: they provide 1 dedicated pool point for research into matters where **Fringe Science** overlaps with **Vampirology**. They also serve as a record of Dr Parravicini's movements during the years they cover, and may be of interest to collectors of occult or vampiric memorabilia.

**Minor Item:** A minor version of the Notes offers the lesser benefits of a major version. However, they cannot be used to construct an Apparatus - the sketches were enough to keep the design clear in the mind of its inventor, but not enough for the lay reader to reproduce it.

**Fraudulent:** These notes weren't written by Dr Parravicini. **Forgery** will be able to ascertain that the document is younger than the 1880's and unlikely to have been written by a native Italian speaker; **Art History** will narrow the time of writing down to the late 1910's or early 1920's, and suggest German or Swiss as the author's native language. The text itself is a mishmash of discredited theories and fantasies about the power of blood - an Investigative use of **Shrink** will suggest that it's not an intentional forgery by the author so much as an outpouring by someone obsessed with Parravicini's work.

**Connections:** The Notes may be on the shelves of the Bookseller (*DH*, p. 106), Classene Library (*DH*, p. 238), Enigmatic Monsignor (*DH*, p. 114), Psychic (*DH*, p. 96), Seward's Asylum (*DH*, p. 195), or Van Helsing's House (*DH*, p. 243).