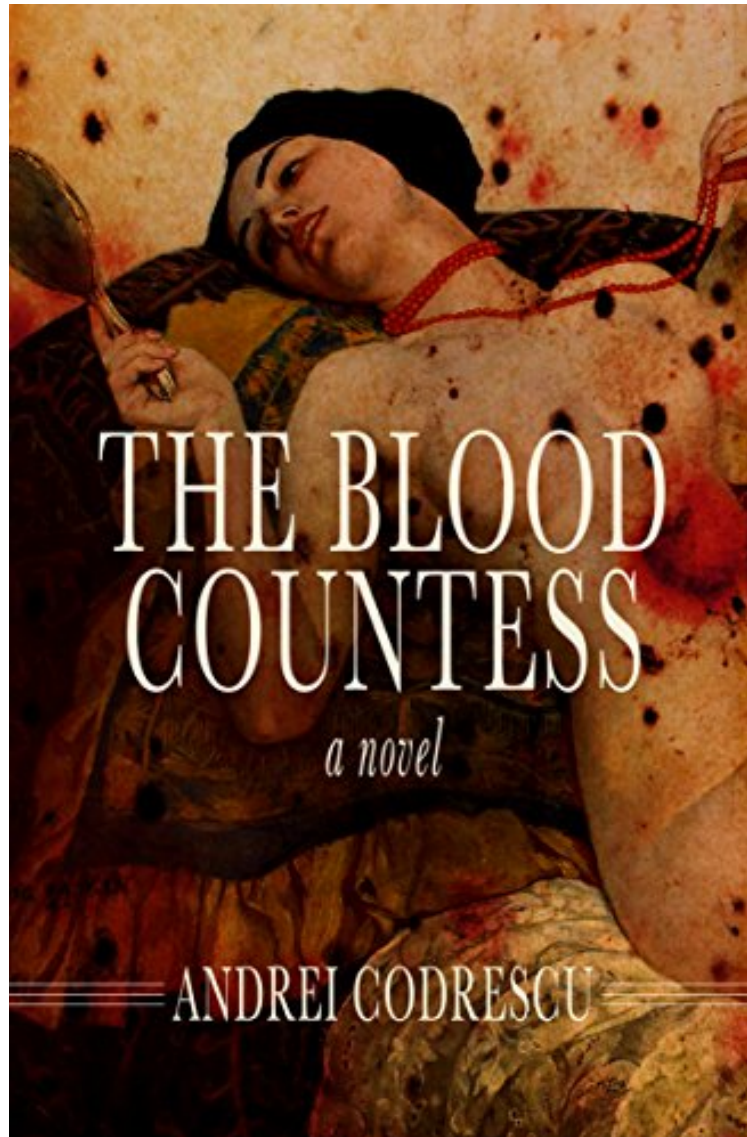


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The Blood Countess: A Novel (English Edition)

Von *Andrei Codrescu*

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Von Andrei Codrescu : The Blood Countess: A Novel (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Blood Countess: A Novel (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. I am of two minds about this book.Von Ein KundeI will not say that this was the worst book I ever read, nor will I call it the best. To merely shrug it off as "mediocrr" would be an injustice. So, I must elaborate. On the one hand, Codrescu is clearly gifted in the use of the English language. He brings forth delicate half-tones and nuances as well as straight-

forward descriptions in such a way that merely reading this book becomes a pleasure, not for the content, but for the sheer beauty of the work. His talent for description and penetration into the soul of the character (and ergo, by extension, the soul of the reader), is such that the very tone of the book has a dark, burning beauty. However, that is not the whole of the novel, I would that it were. The characters, while beautifully portrayed, are two-dimensional. One gets too small a glimpse of most of them to really determine a relationship between reader and character. The plot suffers a dire fate as well. For all the exquisite language and description Codrescu uses to link the past and present, he does not quite accomplish it, and the two levels of the book stay separated. All in all, this book is worth reading. It is by no means a masterpiece, but the sheer beauty of the narrative, the magnificent descriptive imagery, and the dark, hauntingly hideous and tragic figure of Elizabeth Bathory that permeates the book make it well-worth ones time. I do not place it in the list of nominations for novel of the century, but in its genre, it is decidedly good.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Rich in History, sordid in descriptionVon Ein KundeCodrescu, though a vivid and graphic novelist who obviously took great pains in researching his work, can be a little TOO graphic at times for those of us who have an aversion to graphic, homosexual trysts. Skirting and toying with psychological explanations for Bathory's savage, perverse and sadistic actions, Codrescu DOES give forth many intriguing concepts, and artfully describes the history with such detail that the book is swift-moving and you actually feel like you're in it. If you DON'T mind perversity and graphic verbal pornography (usually homosexual) then you should probably LOVE the book. If DO mind this stuff and can skim over these sections as I did, you'll find the piece very informative and quick-reading, darkly-disturbing and malevolent, but if you CANNOT skim these parts, do NOT buy this book, you will be offended and revolted, I can guarantee it. One reason I WAS able to get past these parts is that, unfortunately, they WERE a part of Bathory's history, an INTRINSIC part. I just wish that they were a little less graphic, I was able to skip them and get just as much out of the book... WITHOUT throwing it down in disgust! (I came close once or twice.) One final nice piece about the book though is that it mentions the REST of Bathory's relatives, and explains THEIR different disorders and illnesses, which was interesting to see a hinting at a genetic explanation. Personally, I feel that this is a book that is VERY controversial and not "toned-down" or softened in the least, so you will have to make up your own mind on it. It DID leave me wanting to see if the court-case (present day) was real or a fabrication though... enjoy!0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. The one is intense, even by Codrescu's standards.Von Ein KundeWhether based on fact or not, this book presents a lot of questions on the nature of evil, and what turns human beings into monsters. Was it the age she lived in, what she saw and experienced, especially as a child, her loneliness, madness, or a combination of all of these? Give human beings enough pain and suffering, whether individually or as a whole, and they will dish it out themselves, in bigger and better amounts; is that what Codrescu seems to be saying? The author touches on this as being part of the very nature or Eastern Europe, ingrained forever. Unfortunately, this was not developed further. Perhaps that was the purpose of the modern day subplot, which by itself made no sense. Codrescu brings us through Hell, but never tells us why. What was his point...? DO NOT read this book if you upset easily

KurzbeschreibungA brilliant novel of Elizabeth Bathory, the notorious sixteenth-century Hungarian aristocrat who bathed in the blood of virgins (St. Petersburg Times). Turmoil reigns in post-Soviet Hungary when journalist Drake Bathory-Kereshtur returns from America to grapple with his family history. Hes haunted by the legacy of his ancestor, the notorious sixteenth-century Countess Elizabeth Bathory, who is said to have murdered more than 650 young virgins and bathed in their blood to preserve her youth. Interweaving past and present, The Blood Countess tells the stories of Elizabeths debauched and murderous reign and Drakes fascination with the eternal clashes of faith and power, violence and beauty. Codrescu traces the captivating origins of the countesss obsessions in tandem with the emerging political fervor of the reporter, building the narratives into an unforgettable, bloody crescendo. Taut and intense, The Blood Countess is a riveting novel that deftly straddles the genres of historical fiction, thriller, horror, and family drama.