



The Science of Monsters: The Origins of the Creatures We Love to Fear

Matt Kaplan

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We all know “there’s no such thing as monsters,” but our imaginations tell us otherwise. From the mythical beasts of ancient Greece to the hormonal vampires of the Twilight saga, monsters have captivated us for millennia. Matt Kaplan, a noted science journalist and monster-myth enthusiast, employs an entertaining mix of cutting-edge research and a love of lore to explore the history behind these fantastical fictions and our hardwired obsession with things that go bump in the night.

Ranging across history, *Medusa’s Gaze and Vampire’s Bite* tackles the enduring questions that arise on the frontier between fantasy and reality. What caused ancient Minoans to create the tale of the Minotaur and its subterranean maze? Did dragons really exist? What inspired the creation of vampires and werewolves, and why are we so drawn to them?

With the eye of a journalist and the voice of a storyteller, Kaplan takes readers to the forefront of science, where our favorite figures of horror may find real-life validation. Does the legendary Kraken, a squid of epic proportions, really roam the deep? Are we close to making *Jurassic Park* a reality by replicating a dinosaur from fossilized DNA? As our fears evolve, so do our monsters, and *Medusa’s Gaze and Vampire’s Bite* charts the rise of the ultimate beasts, humans themselves.

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