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R.E. Hemphill, T. Zabow

Abstract

Clinical vampirism is named after the mythical vampire, and is a recognizable, although rare, clinical entity characterized by compulsive blood drinking, affinity with the dead and uncertain identity. It is hypothetically the expression of the act of taking blood being a ritual that gives temporary relief. From ancient times vampirists have existed, and the existence of supernatural vampires. Four vampirists, including Haigh, the 'acid-bath murderer', are described. They themselves drank their own, exogenous human or animal blood to relieve a craving, dreamed of blood and had a changing identity. They were intelligent, with no family mental or social pathology. Some series of females are not likely to assault others for blood, but males are potentially dangerous. Vampirism may be associated with repeated assault and murder, and should be looked for in violent criminals who are self-mutilators. N

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