

Strahd Von Zarovich

Count Strahd von Zarovich is the quintessential darklord and vampire archetype, ruling the fog-shrouded valley of Barovia from his formidable fortress, Castle Ravenloft. Cursed by love's betrayal and empowered by unholy pacts, Strahd has tormented adventurers for centuries. This book presents a richly detailed portrait of his history, powers, and pivotal encounters—ideal for lore enthusiasts, tactical guides, or storytelling inspiration.

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Overview



Strahd von Zarovich

Aliases

The Devil of Dalgenen; The First Vampire

Species

Vampire (formerly human)

Gender

Male

Height

6'2"

Relatives

Barov & Ravenovia von Zarovich (parents); Sergei & Sturm (brothers)

Death / Death's Return

16th of Kingsbane, 1570 A.W.

“ Undead is the mortal word for pioneering.

Origins & Curse

Natively of the Prime Material, Strahd was born into nobility—an experienced general throughout his youth. In his middle age, consumed by regret and longing, he struck a deadly bargain at the **Amber Temple**, seeking eternal life and favor with **Tatyana**, his brother Sergei's betrothed. He murdered Sergei on his wedding day, only to drive Tatyana into death, and was struck down by his guards. But Death's power twisted him into vampirism, forging him inadvertently into Barovia's—and possibly the multiverse's—first vampire. His domain became a prison—shrouded in mist, eternally under his shadow.



Legacy & Domain

Strahd rules Barovia and Castle Ravenloft with absolute dominance, shaping land and weather with his will and summoning choking fog at his leisure. His rule is enforced by undead minions, wolves, bats—and even empowered zombie thralls. Once every generation, a woman born in his realm resembles Tatyana, setting off a tragic cycle of pursuit and death. Strahd is also a powerful necromancer-wizard hybrid, fluent in Abyssal, Infernal, Elvish, and more.



Encounters with the Lightbringers

- **Dalgenen Village (Morninglord Church):** Strahd made his chilling introduction, mocking the party's internal conflicts.
- **Woodland Intrusions:** Employed illusions to torment Vulmar Ventriss and delved into Gokher Wraitharm's mind.
- **Krezk Massacre:** Unleashed fury at the St. Markovia Pool—conjuring lightning, fog, bats, wolves, and decimating residents.
- **Dinner at Castle Ravenloft:** Extended hospitality then threatened to seize everything the group loved—including a choice between saving Vallaki or Errich Leagallow.
- **Battle of Ravenloft:** Summoned beasts, vampire spawn, a Roc, werewolves, and weather to his defense. Ultimately felled by Vulmar's lightning magic amid heavy casualties.



Resurrection & Aftermath

Three months after being slain by the Lightbringers, Strahd returned via dark rites brought to the Amber Temple during Lady Vivian Holt's vampire ascension. Her body became host to his voice and power. His resurrection reignited dread across Barovia—and his manipulations continue to ripple through the land and its denizens.