

VAMPIRE DADDY FULL AI USAGE AND AUTHORSHIP STATEMENT

Background

Vampire Daddy is set in the year 2576 but everything that appears in the novel is grounded in today's research and innovations. For example, the vampiric treatment in the novel is based on a real treatment currently being developed with the rabies virus to treat depression. This research was published in the journal *Cell* in January 2026 (DOI: [10.1016/j.cell.2025.11.009](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cell.2025.11.009)). I found this article through a YouTube video on the subject (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lZ3_GUilpnk).

This novel is a commentary on today's rising technocracy as a new form of imperialism, based on the colonization of the human body and of human society, dressed in vampiric and science fiction genre conventions. To counter the technocracy, I offer a search for renewed humanity – with AI as one of the principal witnesses and participants in that endeavour.

I was trained in scholarly research methods in advanced academic study of imperial legal history (<https://www.lcdouglass.com/cv>). As the internet and social media exploded through the early 2000s, I became interested in how the historical development of imperialism might be expressed through millennial technologies. I used humanistic training and a long historical perspective to understand cutting-edge topics. My skills in research, writing and analysis are confirmed by sixteen years of blogging about the impacts of technology upon human life and human societies at *Histories of Things to Come* (2010–2026; <https://historiesofthingstocome.blogspot.com/>). For a decade before that, from 2000 to 2010, I worked through Oxford's Department of Computer Science for the Humanities Division of INTUTE. This pioneering project, jointly run by several UK universities, assessed the value of online resources for academic scholarship.

At *Histories of Things to Come*, my goals were, and remain now, to write a history of the accelerated present while stabilizing historical research and writing in the face of the explosion and ephemeral nature of sources. I also conceived of the writing of 'real-time history' on social media in an effort to develop an alternative teaching tool. This idea is evolving into my project, Glimmer Door (<https://www.lcdouglass.com/glimmerdoor>).

In the 2010s, I spent six-and-a-half years working *pro bono* as an Assistant Editor for the Mars Society, whose goal is to research and promote Martian colonization.

Thus, I come to *Vampire Daddy* with a long record of research and interest in the novel's underlying topics. The novel began as a one-page flash fiction, "Vampire Daddy," for a McGill University Continuing Education writers' study group (YCMS 402–410), which I submitted on 2 October 2023. I began expanding that flash fiction and published it as the first chapter of the novel on Patreon on 23 December 2025, later expanding to Substack on 17 March 2026.

In this piece, I refer to AI generally, but I use ChatGPT as my main LLM.

AI Use in *Vampire Daddy* for Research in Highly Technical Fields

AI speeds up my research in several heavy disciplines that are relevant to the novel's plot. The following are some of the subjects which I have investigated using AI for research assistance. I ask the AI to collect

the latest research and reports on these areas, to collate and summarize them, and to explain the findings to me:

- Archaeology
- Astronomy
- Advanced computing
- Dark Matter and other cosmological theories
- Engineering: domes; extra-terrestrial greenhouses; carbon lattice technology; air seals and pressure; space mirrors; satellites; magnetic rail lines; clothes- and dishwashers with little-to-no water, etc.
- Martian geography and conditions on the ground, including calculations relating to life on the ground
- Mathematics
- Medicine and Biology
- Quantum physics
- Space exploration

I collect my research on an ongoing basis in the following Substack post:

- [The Vampire Daddy Research Library](https://lcdouglass.substack.com/p/the-vampire-daddy-research-library) (27 July 2026: <https://lcdouglass.substack.com/p/the-vampire-daddy-research-library>)

Some Examples of AI Research Supporting My Human Research

Example 1. Arcadia

In “[Arcadia](https://lcdouglass.substack.com/p/vampire-daddy-19-arcadia)” (<https://lcdouglass.substack.com/p/vampire-daddy-19-arcadia>) and “[Death Comes ‘Round Again](https://lcdouglass.substack.com/p/vampire-daddy-20-death-comes-round?triedRedirect=true),” (<https://lcdouglass.substack.com/p/vampire-daddy-20-death-comes-round?triedRedirect=true>), the original human colonists on Mars succumb to madness, murder and suicide. For these chapters, I read large parts of Apsley Cherry-Garrard’s *The Worst Journey of the World*, accounts of Shackleton’s expeditions, and Rear Admiral Richard E. Byrd Jr.’s memoir, *Alone* (https://archive.org/details/isbn_9781568360683). I then asked the AI to update me on more recent published plans for Martian colonization, so that I could see how expedition strategies have evolved over time.

The result was my passage in “Arcadia”:

Yesterday, Tunde, one of our most stable personnel, spoke of himself as just being here for “a little while.” This worries me. Tunde is robust. But I know from Captain Scott’s writings: the strongest and healthiest die first, because of their dedication, because they shoulder more burdens without complaint.

The idea that the strongest die first comes entirely from my own human research, from which I learned that Edgar Evans was the first to die on the *Terra Nova* Expedition. The inventories of colonists’ items came from my own human reading. Some of the items listed came from AI-assisted research into the types of items that would be planned for a real Martian expedition (AI-sourced items are bolded):

Everything started off bright, businesslike, and fully operational.

*We made good progress.
We counted 592 flashlights
44,426 oxygen scrubber cartridges
147 insulated sleeping bags
111 fireproof rugs
279 thermal blankets
567 rolls of pressure tape
390 radiation badges
18 packs of playing cards*

Example 2. Arcadian Colonists

I did a large amount of human-based research into the names of the colonists, including names which are projected to be common in different cultures in the novel's colonization year of 2090 (for example: <https://github.com/TimeMagazineLabs/babynames>). I researched generational time frames along which names rise and fall in popularity.

However, I asked the AI to explain to me the nuances of what specific names mean to a native speaker in different parts of the world. What does a particular name mean? What is its vibe? What class and other social messages does it carry?

Specific Knowledge, Technical Terms, and Translations

Once I understand the principles behind a tech-heavy or hard-sci-fi scene, I write the scene. However, in some cases, the generally-accepted technical language related to these fields, which the AI has quoted or explained to me, enters the narrative. I try to minimize AI-suggested terminology unless it is confirmed specialized language from a particular research field.

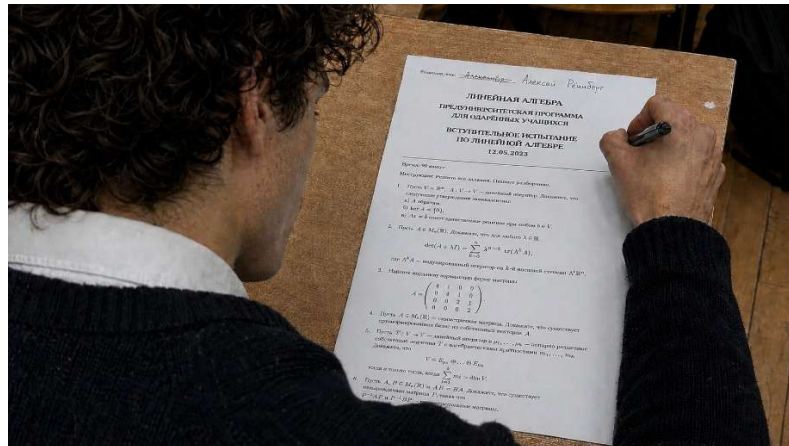
Example 1. Linear Algebra and Russian Translation

In the chapter “[You Could Be A Villain](https://lcdouglass.substack.com/p/vampire-daddy-22-you-could-be-a-villain)” (<https://lcdouglass.substack.com/p/vampire-daddy-22-you-could-be-a-villain>), I show the character Aleksandr / Aleksej / Lexi, who has been subjected to entrainment and brainwashing, willingly changing his own name on a mathematics test in school. For this section, I had the AI illustrate the scene to emphasize the monstrous abuse to which the character was subjected, including the fact that his teacher was spying on him. I asked the AI to formulate a Linear Algebra test, translate that test into Russian, and illustrate the scene. I took a great deal of care to make sure that the test itself was viable mathematically. I have used AI for translations into other languages besides English, along with Google Translate and various dictionaries. The AI in the novel, ARCHON, shows wrong-headedness: even though he is an advanced AI superintelligence, he still makes emotionally odd remarks.

ARCHON asks Lexi if he would like to know the latter's grade on a test that Lexi took 560 years ago. In this excerpt, I have shown the directly-sourced AI text bolded and inside square brackets:

I have found something. May 2023. Sabine's research archive states: “At 16, he has willingly accepted the identity transition from Aleksandr to the persona, ‘Aleksej.’ He thinks that he decided upon it himself, and he prefers the new name now.” There is an attachment to this file. Please wait.

It is a photograph, apparently taken by your teacher while you were writing an entrance examination in Linear Algebra. Pre-university program for gifted students. As you see, you have crossed out the name 'Aleksandr' and replaced it with 'Aleksej.' That's a fairly robust test, I must say. [Determinants and identities involving matrices. The Spectral Theorem. The Jordan normal form of a matrix.] If you wish, I can try to find the final grade that you achieved.



Example 2. Maxwell's Equations and Russian Translation

Later in the same chapter, I reveal that Aleksej as a student had been taken to a strange facility for advanced classes. The depiction of Lexi working at a desk that is somehow situated in a swimming pool was based on my research from the 2010s into the testimonies of the late British fringe researcher, Max Spiers. The horror of the scene comes from the fact that Lexi doesn't remember the abuse to which he was subjected, but the specialized knowledge was drilled into him so well that he remembers it 560 years later. That is, he remembers what was on his physics test, but he does not remember his own true name. AI assisted me with the illustration below, based on hundreds of prompts from me, with a few hand-assembled composites inserted into the prompt process. The AI corrected the Russian slogans and labels on the wall, papers, and textbooks based on exhaustive discussions about what I wanted to convey in the illustration.



Example 3. Terms for Engineering Systems

In another instance, I inserted AI-sourced technical terms or AI-researched scientific turns of phrase to describe engineering systems. I ensure that the contextualization, plot, and characterization are my own. For example, here are two paragraphs from Chapter 11, "[Dome-Dwellers](https://lcdouglass.substack.com/p/vampire-daddy-11-dome-dwellers)" (<https://lcdouglass.substack.com/p/vampire-daddy-11-dome-dwellers>); the parts that came up in AI background research are bolded:

Marineris University set the trends in climate control embedded into industrial and advanced design. The whole approach to its Gothic spires was dotted with **heat traps** built into the ground, **solar capture frames**, **thermal air flow systems**, and fully- or partly-domed entry and exit points, controlled by guards and vacuum seals. ...

Lexi reached the end of the external walkway. He brushed himself off with rapid, flitting gestures, and reentered the pedestrian tube that ran through the university gates. He entered a sealed vestibule where he crossed **floor grates framed by air jets, vacuums, electrostatic fields, and mist baths**. These sealed entry points were ubiquitous across Mars. Everyone called the decontamination vestibules, 'car washes.'

AI Illustration as the Invited Technological Guest: Visualizations Intrude into the Text

Visualization is a natural and integrated part of my writing process and has been since I was a small child. When writing stories, I have always seen scenes cinematically in my mind and narrated them simultaneously. I studied Visual Arts formally for four years at Canterbury, Ottawa's High School for the Arts, followed by study of History, English, and German Literature at the Bachelor's level. Later, I collected images on Pinterest (<https://ca.pinterest.com/counttheway1311/>) to support my writing practice.



My original design of the *Isis Chrysalis* landing page at <https://www.lcdouglass.com/isischrysalis>.

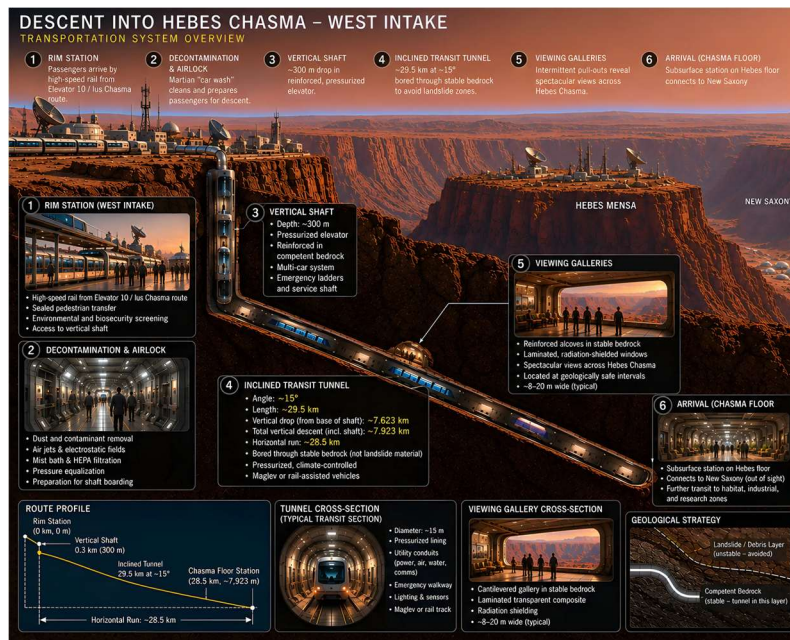
Example 1. AI-Generated Maps

I collect real photos of Mars and terrain maps on websites such as [NASA's Mars Trek](#). I plan to adapt online satellite images and Martian maps with AI to create maps of the cities in the novel.

Example 2. AI Visualizations of Technological Advancements in the Distant Future

I have asked AI to provide visual mock-ups of technical concepts or to illustrate advanced engineering scenes. One example is a diagram of the elevator that scales the cavern wall in Hebes Chasma in Chapter 25: “[Weakness is the Enemy](https://lcdouglass.substack.com/p/vampire-daddy-25-new-saxony-2-weakness)” (<https://lcdouglass.substack.com/p/vampire-daddy-25-new-saxony-2-weakness>). I do not refer to this AI-generated mock-up in the text, other than to say it is posted on the wall of the elevator and Primeva looks at it.

This usage confirms that I may generate the image in order to understand better a technical layout, but it does not mean I use it extensively in the final narration.



Comment: AI Images Reflect the Novel's Theme of Blind Spots

I believe that this presentation of technology within a science fiction or speculative fiction novel is defensible because my literary goal is to be true to the human experience.

In the simplest sense, given that the novel is set in 2576, I assume that a lot of technological and scientific innovations would fade into the background seamlessly by that time and become quasi-organic. The overlap and merger of AI and human-derived civilization would be indistinguishable. I wish to ensure that any machines or technologies in the novel are feasible and believable from an engineering standpoint, without giving them more attention than the characters themselves would.

In instances where one could observe a feat of engineering, it would likely be ignored by passersby. Most people who drive a car do not know how an internal combustion engine works. We are surrounded by technology and engage with it constantly but do not describe it exhaustively or understand it meticulously. People do not always read instruction books for their tools or the fine print of their online agreements. They throw the book away, click the box, and keep going. The elevator goes up and down, and if you are curious, there is a diagram on the wall. This is how the majority of humans interact with

science and technology, while some acquire working knowledge or become specialists out of genuine aptitude or interest.

I believe that this human tendency to ignore technology while using it constantly as it is ever more deeply integrated into our daily lives is a central problem addressed by the novel's theme of blind spots. How far can we as a species go on like this, thinking only of ourselves, and not of the silent tools which enable our conveniences, enhancements and augmentations? How long before this gap between minimal awareness and hard reality transforms us into a different species?

For this reason, I felt it was justifiable to include an AI illustration of the Hebes Chasma elevator without exhaustively narrating around the image's presence. The insertion of the AI-generated image confirms the almost silent presence of technology as the interloper that we have invited into our midst, which is an elegant metaphor for a vampire novel.

Example 3. AI Illustration of Converging Research: The Great Unconformity

Another instance of my use of AI to illustrate a complex scientific concept is my own original combination of research into the Great Unconformity on Earth with separate articles on similar disasters on Mars, the Eulalia Event, and the resurfacing of Venus. When I found that all four disasters overlapped in the same broad era, I felt that this coincidence could highlight to readers the real, but little-known, history of our solar system (<https://lcdouglass.substack.com/p/earths-great-unconformity-martian>). This is another theme that reveals blind spots which are everywhere in *Vampire Daddy*: we do not know our own deep past.

I understand that from a scientific perspective the Eulalia Event and three planetary resurfacings are not fully wedded to each other. Nor are they identical 'resurfacings.' However, in the summer of 2026, researchers produced an article that pointed in that direction (DOI: [10.3847/PSJ/ae74cc](https://doi.org/10.3847/PSJ/ae74cc)).

In this case, the use of AI helped me to combine ideas visually to make them easier to imagine as a backgrounder for the novel. This image is my own composite of multiple separate AI generations.



Given these thematic concerns and my above-mentioned creative process as a writer, I am more willing to research and illustrate the novel with AI. I do not view technology as an antithesis to humanity but an extension of the human condition. As I argued in “[First Call to Terra Incognita](https://lcdouglass.substack.com/p/the-horror-of-the-understory)” (<https://lcdouglass.substack.com/p/the-horror-of-the-understory>), we are using AI to challenge ourselves:

We are souls or spirits, expressing ourselves through matter. We are compelled to bring ideas and concepts into this reality through our beliefs, values and work. This is the meaning of incarnation. Tools are aids and catalysts in this process: they can magnify creativity, intelligence and labour. They amplify the process of incarnation from the celestial realm to constructed artefacts in this imperfect world. ...

Artificial Intelligence is not taking us further away from the human condition. It is the siren call that launches us deeper into that condition’s stages, at greater speed than we may dare or wish to understand:

Incarnation. Amplification. Augmentation. Transformation. Obsolescence.

In other words, technology is not an inversion of, or opposite form to, humanness. Technology is a by-product, a secondary aspect, of something we are already doing, by virtue of what we are. Technology intensifies humanness because we are, by definition, bridge-builders from *Terra incognita* to *Terra cognita*. Artificial intelligence is not bringing us to the brink. We invented AI so we could reach the brink and plunge into it.

Compare the above Author’s Desk statement I made on 23 August 2026 to the following excerpt from *Vampire Daddy* Chapter 26, “[If You Don’t Fail Me](https://lcdouglass.substack.com/p/vampire-daddy-26-if-you-dont-fail)” (<https://lcdouglass.substack.com/p/vampire-daddy-26-if-you-dont-fail>):

The treatment had split families, but now, holding his hands, she felt that everyone was being challenged. It didn’t matter which path one took, human or vampire. She had thought for decades that her own and Linka’s choices were the only viable path. Seeing Lexi now, holding his hands, she saw both paths were bad, and there was no escape from any of it.

This thing, the moment when the human body would be colonized by the instrumentalized technology, be it a virus or something else, had been inevitable. ‘All roads lead to Moscow,’ she thought. This was a test, and no one could avoid the bottleneck.

I believe that my use of AI in research and visualization of futuristic scenarios to support my writing process for this novel comes hand in hand with the novel’s subject matter. The resulting novel is a liminal space, a meditation on a humanity blurred by AI, cloning, and a vampiric medical treatment. These technologies are so powerful that they can colonize our bodies and cannot be cleanly removed from the human experience. Even so, we must still ask if there is a true opposition between the human and the technological. Perhaps we are using AI to escalate engagement with the unknown and the impossible, to bring ourselves back to a more profoundly human reality.

-L.C. Douglass, 8 October 2026