



The Gothic Wanderer

From Transgression to Redemption

Tyler R. Tichelaar, Ph.D.

The Gothic Wanderer - Synopsis

From the horrors of sixteenth century Italian castles to twenty-first century plagues, from the French Revolution to the liberation of Libya, Tyler R. Tichelaar takes readers on far more than a journey through literary history. *The Gothic Wanderer* is an exploration of man's deepest fears, his efforts to rise above them for the last two centuries, and how he may be on the brink finally of succeeding. Whether it's seeking immortal life, the fabulous philosopher's stone that will change lead into gold, or human blood as a vampire, or coping with more common "transgressions" like being a woman in a patriarchal society, being a Jew in a Christian land, or simply being addicted to gambling, the Gothic wanderer's journey toward damnation or redemption is never dull and always enlightening.

Tichelaar examines the figure of the Gothic wanderer in such well-known Gothic novels as *The Mysteries of Udolpho*, *Frankenstein*, and *Dracula*, as well as lesser known works like Fanny Burney's *The Wanderer*, Mary Shelley's *The Last Man*, and Edward Bulwer-Lytton's *Zanoni*. He also finds surprising Gothic elements in classics like Dickens' *A Tale of Two Cities* and Edgar Rice Burroughs' *Tarzan of the Apes*. From Matthew Lewis' *The Monk* to Stephenie Meyer's *Twilight*, Tichelaar explores a literary tradition whose characters reflect our greatest fears and deepest hopes. Readers will find here the revelation that not only are we all Gothic wanderers—but we are so only by our own choosing.