



The Gothic Wanderer

From Transgression to Redemption

Tyler R. Tichelaar, Ph.D.

New Book Reveals the Gothic Wanderer Figure Resides in All of Us

Vampires, werewolves, and zombies fill our fiction, but few know their origins in Ancient Mariners, Wandering Jews, and Rosicrucians. In his new book, “The Gothic Wanderer,” Tyler R. Tichelaar, reveals horror fiction’s origins and relevance today.

Marquette, MI October, 2012—Social commentary, fear, and family values first fueled the Gothic novel’s origins during the French Revolution—and the same issues fuel today’s fascination with vampires, werewolves, apocalyptic plagues and all that marks modern horror fiction, but with some progressive differences as revealed in Tyler R. Tichelaar’s “The Gothic Wanderer: From Transgression to Redemption, Gothic Fiction from 1794-present” (ISBN: 9781615991396, Modern History Press, 2012).

From haunted medieval castles to twenty-first century plagues, and from the French Revolution to the Libya’s liberation, readers of “The Gothic Wanderer” are taken on a journey through Gothic literary history and the deepest fears and hopes of their own psyches. Author Tyler R. Tichelaar tracks the literary Gothic wanderer ancestors of the Twilight series’ Edward Cullen and Anne Rice’s Lestat as they evolved from condemned transgressors, then redeemed penitents, to modern-day superheroes. Fascinating tales of sacrificial love, Satanic pacts, conspiracy theories, elixirs of life, and the soul’s journey mark this study of how humanity’s fear and self-esteem have developed and changed over the past two centuries.

The Gothic wanderer is examined in classic eighteenth and nineteenth century texts like “The Mysteries of Udolpho,” “Frankenstein,” and “Dracula.” But Tichelaar also provides insight into largely forgotten books like Fanny Burney’s “The Wanderer,” Mary Shelley’s “The Last Man,” and Edward Bulwer-Lytton’s “Zanoni.” And he finds surprising Gothic elements in characters like Tarzan, Superman, and the X-Men. More than a literary study, “The Gothic Wanderer” reveals how we are all Gothic wanderers.

Tichelaar says he wrote “The Gothic Wanderer” because: “At times, I have felt depressed, displaced, and deceived by obscure rules, impersonal bureaucracies, and life-draining technology until it was like I was wandering in a Gothic maze. Horror fiction speaks to those feelings so many of us share. Not only did writing this book reveal a rich Gothic tradition for me, but it helped to lead me out of the darkness.”

Readers feel both informed and enlightened by “The Gothic Wanderer.” Diana DeLuca, author of “Extraordinary Things” states, “As Tyler Tichelaar shows us, when we mature, we move from fearing the outcasts among us to recognizing ourselves in them...an insightful treat.” Lorelei Bell, author of “Vampire Ascending” declares, “this addition to Gothic studies was highly energetic in content and exceeded my expectations.” And Michael Willey, author of “Ojisan Zanoni” concludes, “an important, well researched and comprehensive treatise...studying the nature and mystery of man.”

About the Author

Tyler R. Tichelaar holds a Ph.D. in Literature from Western Michigan University. His numerous historical novels include “The Marquette Trilogy,” the award-winning “Narrow Lives,” and “Spirit of the North: a paranormal

romance.” His scholarly works include “King Arthur’s Children: a Study in Fiction and Tradition.” He is currently working on an Arthurian historical fantasy series, beginning with “King Arthur’s Legacy,” in which he intends to weave many Gothic elements.

“The Gothic Wanderer: From Transgression to Redemption, Gothic Fiction from 1794-present” (ISBN: 9781615991396, Modern History Press, 2012) can be purchased through local and online bookstores. For more information, visit www.GothicWanderer.com. Publicity contact: www.ReaderViews.com. Review copies available upon request.

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