

Moon & Son

The Newsletter of Glenn's Gothic Works

Autumn/Winter Newsletter 2009

"Moonlight has an addictive quality, that lingers in the soul. I'd rather fly in the moonlight than see Cleopatra naked... Well, most nights anyway....." (Peptatster III, of the House of Mephisto)

Welcome to the Moon & Son Newsletter, an update designed with news of how things are developing with Skaler, and our other Gothic works.

Since We Last Saw You...

Given the unbelievable happenings in the news of late, we hope that everyone is faring well in these uncertain times. This being said, we are able to provide an item of good news ourselves, and hope that you will share in our joy surrounding the cause for our unexpected silence.... There is a terribly good reason....

A Daughter to the House of James



Elizabeth Reece May James, our second daughter, was born on Saturday 30th May 2009. Her arrival, four weeks early by Caesarean Section, has been a cause of enormous joy and relief to her parents and her older sister Charlotte.

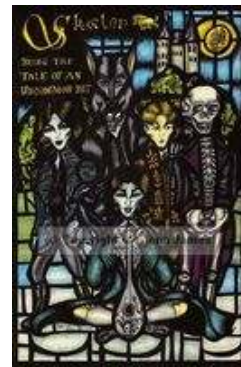
The circumstances surrounding her delivery were not easy, and Lizzie and her mother came through it with flying colours, but it necessitated a period of considerable recuperation.

Glenn could not be more proud of his girls, who have shown enormous stamina and courage. Speaking as an exhausted



nervous wreck, Glenn is proud and relieved that both are thriving, and he would like to pay tribute to Doctor James Davies and his team at Worcester Royal Hospital.

Skaler: The Novel



Following a tremendously encouraging critique by an independent Literary Consultancy, undertaken at the advice given by a Literary Agent, Glenn has been hard at work on the Second Draft of Skaler all year. The critique stated that Skaler was "inventive and ambitious vampire fantasy," and he expects this to be his dominant project throughout the rest of 2009, and into early 2010.

Following the natural hiatus which surrounded Elizabeth's birth, the work has continued apace, and he is proud to relate that he is somewhat over half way through this second draft. Glenn has found this the most exciting and rewarding experience of his life as a writer, and also the hardest.

The story has deepened and filled out with this second draft, as the world which Skaler inhabits has of course developed considerably across the last few years, and Glenn is working hard to communicate the richness of the beliefs of the Bitten and the Born in the vampire's world.

Skaler Returns Home: Obsidian Books in Birmingham



October saw a major significant development where Glenn's Artwork is concerned. On the 15th, Glenn's work went on sale for the first time in Birmingham, the city of his birth, at Obsidian Books (www.obsidianbooks.co.uk).

It was whilst living in Birmingham, that Glenn had the dream which inspired Skaler's story in the first place. So you could say that the vampire has returned home.

Obsidian Books is ran by Gemma Newey, and located in the night on legendary venue of "The Oasis" Market (at the top of Corporation Street, opposite the Square Peg). The Oasis is a highly regarded centre for everyone interested in Gothic and alternative Fashions, and alternative lifestyle goods. Gemma's shop specialises in Tarot, Wicca, Paganism and Gothic wares, and now stocks the full range of items featuring Glenn's work: A4 and A3 Prints, Greetings Cards, Postcards and Fridge Magnets. Hers is the premier store in the centre of Birmingham, and she seeks to make it a focal point for Gothic and Pagan groups in the West Midlands.

Gemma described Glenn's work as highly original, unusual and something truly unique.

Gothic Greeting Cards...



Whilst Glenn's Gothic Work has been on sale at Prana in St. John's, Worcestershire, a very frequent request has been whether any of his illustrations are available in a Greetings Card Format. This is a regular request, and we have found that the work adapts very well to that format, so there is now a range of Cards available featuring his gothic work.

These were available at first from Prana and have just also gone on sale with Obsidian Books in Birmingham.

The Cards feature the main Skaler Characters, as well as an ever expanding range of other gothic subjects, as Glenn experiments with various themes.

The illustrations "Midnight Unmasking", "Witchfinder: general" and "At The Pins Head" are proving very popular, as is "Le Therapute", and more drawings are being added gradually to a series which has provoked a great deal of enthusiasm and curiosity.

"Artist's Work Proving Popular" Worcester Evening News



The Worcester Evening News published a story on 1st October concerning the reception which Glenn's work has received, since it has gone on sale in Worcestershire, at Prana (www.pranaholistics.co.uk). The work is proving extremely popular, particularly with exchange students and tourists visiting the city. There is a regular flux of people calling into the establishment who are interested in Glenn's work.

If you would like to view the article please use the following link:

http://www.worcesternews.co.uk/news/local/4657289.Gothic_artist_has_work_for_sale_in_shop/

Word seems to be spreading, Rob Shotton, the owner of Prana, informed us that quite often he endeavours to explain about Glenn's work, but that they often say they already know all about it! We are particularly proud in that three individuals have cited a talk Glenn gave, at Christopher Whitehead School in early 2005, as being the inspiration which pushed them to go to University, and a couple of students have studied his work for their A Level exams. Also we are informed that Glenn's work is proving particularly popular with American and Australian visitors to the city.

Prana was the first establishment to stock any of Glenn's work, the cards in particular, and we are proud to say that Rob has a prominent display devoted to the work in his shop. It has been a fruitful collaboration, and one we are proud of.

Nightwing: Gothic Angel



Glenn's Gothic Angel, inspired by Julian Swinbourne's poem, "The Shining", has proved to be a very popular illustration.

The artist has never seen a truly Gothic Angel, renowned as they are for wearing pristine white robes, and has been very glad that he has had the opportunity to try his hand at drawing one with a much darker look. The red halo comes directly from his own Skaler mythology, from the beliefs of the Born vampiric dynasties, and the bloodthirsty equivalent of Saints in their culture.

NightWing is proving a very popular print, and makes a fantastic card, and we hope fans of Glenn's work will find her a refreshingly dark alternative to the conventional heavenly hosts.

Moon Watcher: Gothic Fairy



A very frequent request we have had regarding Glenn's work is over whether he ever draws Fairies or Elves. Truth be told, this is an area of mythology he has often considered but hitherto not explored, as the Fair Folk do not feature in his Skaler mythology or story arc. (The same may be said of Zombies, another creature frequently mentioned.)

The folklore surrounding the Fair Folk is rich indeed, and the accounts of people being abducted by them, or spending a few minutes at one of their Forts and returning to the real world 90 years later, could even be said to be the alien abduction myths of the middle ages.

Glenn would very much like to explore this world, and has often thought that there is something truly otherworldly in their

ancient and fearsome reputation, which is often lost in the broad modern conception of flower fairies.

His first essay into the arena is with Moon Watcher, a dark little warrior pausing in her hunt, on the bows of an oak tree.

Glenn thought that such a supernatural being would be able to communicate something of her mood in the shifting patterns of her wings like a chameleon, and of her race she is called a Martyrs Pyre sprite. The pattern on her wings, which are deliberately designed to resemble stained glass windows, is a tribute to those martyred for their unconventional beliefs in centuries gone by, and was drawn from the Henry VIII window of the cloisters of Worcester Cathedral.

He aims to draw a number of these darker creatures, and we hope that the result will be welcomed as a return to the Fair Folk's ancient reputation. Moon Watcher is available as A4 and A3 prints, greeting cards, and postcards.

Here Be Dragons...

Being an artist with a curious imagination, Glenn intends to build up a gallery for his website featuring mythological creatures from cultures around the world.

This will be an ongoing project, which he sees as a fascinating challenge and one which has interested him for years. The first piece he will be tackling will be that of a Dragon, although of course featuring his own original twist, and one which would not exactly be a welcome development for a knight in shining armour....

We will inform you of ongoing developments as the project advances, and hope you will watch this space....

This would perhaps be an appropriate point to mention that Glenn undertakes private commissions to design characters for Role Playing games, and if anyone viewing his work would like him to undertake designing such a character, then please get in touch (for a full list of Glenn's services, see attached poster).

The Reluctant Ghost Hunter



Owing to the economic downturn, we are sad to relate that there have been no further developments on this particular project. We will of course update you if the situation changes.

Online PayPal Store Coming Soon



We will soon be launching our new online store via PayPal, so that anyone wishing to purchase any of Glenn's work online will be able to do so at their utmost convenience via our website, paying by debit/credit cards through a secure medium.

Glenn's artwork will be available in various formats, such as Postcards, Greeting Cards, A4 & A3 Prints, and Framed Prints.

Customers tell us that these make unusual gifts and at a time of year when everything is so overwhelmingly covered in tinsel, it's nice to bring a little dark moonlight into the home of someone whose tastes lean more in that direction. So please keep us in mind for the upcoming festive season.

Launch of Two New Businesses

In September 2009, Glenn and Angela launched two new businesses. The first being a business consultancy and the second offering a speechwriting service.

G & A James Business Services



A consultancy providing business support for the self-employed and small business owner. Services include help with business letters and e-mails, typing, transcription, press releases, media relations, report writing, minute taking, verbatim reporting, research, speechwriting, ghostwriting, cartoons/caricatures, poster/flyer design, newsletters, proofreading and editing, administration, personal letters and e-mails, CV compilation, etc.

For more information check out www.gajames.co.uk.

G & A Speeches



A speechwriting service providing individual speeches for all occasions. Also incorporating an editing, coaching and speech delivery service. Specialising in speeches for weddings, birthdays, anniversaries, baptisms, graduation, retirement, bar mitzvah, after dinner, public speaking, business presentations and funeral orations, etc.

Check out www.gaspeeches.co.uk for more details.

With Glenn's background in writing, journalism and business support and Angela's legal, accounts and business background, the two businesses utilise all their skills and experience. They are finding running three businesses, with two young daughters, a challenge but are enjoying every minute of it.

As you can see it has been a pretty busy time, with an awful lot of development, both personally, and with regard to the work itself. Skaler has moved on enormously, and with the work being on sale at Prana and Obsidian Books and our two new business ventures, we have been very busy bunnies indeed. Our new addition to the family has sailed blissfully through all this, however, with complete composure and a happy gummy smile, and at times it has been a tempting thought to consider how nice it must be to dose off in the cradle for half an hour without a care in the world! Most of us are too tall, however, and besides there is not enough black lace or silk in the padding....

We hope that everyone had a thoroughly good Halloween, and we certainly took our own time honoured DVD of "The Nightmare Before Christmas" out of the cupboard with a wicked grin. It gets better every time you watch it, especially Oggie Boogie....

Till next time,

With Darkest Best Wishes,

**Earl Gray and Cobwebs,
Glenn and Angela James**

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