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## Monkish Mysteries [supplemental materials]

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# Monkish Mysteries, by Elizabeth Meeke.

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### MLA Citation

Meeke, Elizabeth. *Monkish Mysteries or The Miraculous Escape: Containing The History and the Villianes of the Monk Bertrand; The Direction of his Impious Frauds and the Subsequent Repentance and Retribution*. London: T. Hurst, c. 1805.

### MLA Citation from the Gothic Archive

Meeke, Elizabeth. *Monkish Mysteries or The Miraculous Escape: Containing The History and the Villianes of the Monk Bertrand; The Direction of his Impious Frauds and the Subsequent Repentance and Retribution*. Published 1805. E-Publications Marquette. The Gothic Archive, Marquette University, Wisconsin. [http://epublications.marquette.edu/english\\_gothic/7/](http://epublications.marquette.edu/english_gothic/7/) Accessed 10/16/13. Web.

### Full Title

*Monkish Mysteries or The Miraculous Escape: Containing The History and the Villianes of the Monk Bertrand; The Direction of his Impious Frauds and the Subsequent Repentance and Retribution*.

## Summary

*Monkish Mysteries* recounts the life of Edward Stanley, The son of a disgraced knight, who is taken in by Pascal and entangled in the hatred between Pascal and the son of a priest and his seduced parishioner, Bertrand, who assumes the name Mystere. One day, Pascal is taken away by four men on horseback under orders by Mystere. Edward pleads for Pascal's release but to no avail and departs back to Switzerland, followed by Mystere. He returns to find Albina, his love, has left for Germany after being told of Edward's death.

In the meantime Mystere ingratiates himself with the Franciscans in the area. Edward goes in search of Albina and Remeau, Albina's brother, stays behind secretly views Mystere practicing his 'miracle' which is really just a trick. Edward goes to the church at night and confronts him. He is discovered and is put in a cell in the abbey. Edward escapes and goes in search of Remeau and Albina. Edward, Remeau and Pascal reunite in Switzerland. Remeau has written a history of Edward that reveals Mystere's trick and sends it to the Prince that Mystere currently advises who subsequently throws him in jail. Mystere escapes to the woods where he runs into Albina who has recently escaped from her own imprisonment. Mystere has a crisis of conscious and repents for his actions. He protects Albina from capture and helps her escape again. Mystere, prompted by a dream, repents to Edward and all go on to lead happy lives.

## Constellation of Knowledge/Historical Context

The *Monkish Mysteries* or *The Miraculous Escape: Containing The History and the Villianes of the Monk Bertrand; The Direction of his Impious Frauds and the Subsequent Repentance and Retribution*, is attributed to the author Elizabeth Meeke who wrote several translations of gothic works including a translation of M.G. Lewis' *The Monk*. Not much else is known about Meeke, however in one fairly interesting theory by Simon Macdonald, he asserts that Meeke is in fact the stepsister of Restoration novelist Francis Burney.

The most direct source material for *Monkish Mysteries* is the German novel *The Ghost Seer* by Freidrich Shiller. Though never finished, the serialized novel published between 1787-1789 relied heavily on many tropes that made it into the translation we see as *Monkish Mysteries*, most notably the many haunted forest scenes that stem from German fairy tales. Additional adaptations of *The Ghost Seer* and *Monkish Mysteries* include a poem by James Russell Lowell written in 1902, which maintains the gothic tone of the original story.

## Key Words

### Apparitions

Description forthcoming.

### Dreams

Literally, dreams refer to the images that form in an individual's mind when he or she is asleep. Figuratively however, dreams signify the inner most, repressed desires of an individual. Dreams can reveal the sexual desires of an individual bound by the rules in

society. For example, in Bram Stoker's *Dracula*, Jonathan, finding himself in a dream-like state and surrounded by three attractive women, confesses that he feels a "wicked, burning desire" to be kissed by these women. While reality is such that Victorian society demands that he keeps his passions restrained, his dream involving the women, reflects his desire to transgress such societal rules. Meanwhile, for Lucy, it is in her unconscious, sleepwalking state that she meets Dracula. We can consider Lucy's "rendezvous" with the Count as her secret desire to break away from the constraints of Victorian society. In doing so, she has the freedom to romance a man who is not even among her three existing suitors. Dreams can also mirror one's fears. In *Frankenstein*, Victor dreams of Elizabeth, whose lips "became livid with the hue of death" and who then transforms into his mother's corpse. This dream perhaps, points out the secret, subconscious repulsion that Victor has towards Elizabeth, or his longing for his dead mother, or both. Dreams also strangely foreshadow events to come. We see this later when the three vampires seduce Van Helsing, just like how they seduced Jonathan, and also when Elizabeth literally dies on her wedding night.

Source: Anna Mathew. "Gothic Keywords."

<http://courses.nus.edu.sg/course/ellgohbh/gothickeywords.html>. Last Updated 2006. Last Accessed 9/16/2013. Web.

### Gothic Ruins (Castle)

Description forthcoming.

### Haunted Forest

Description forthcoming.

### Priestcraft

Description forthcoming.

### Supernatural Explained

Description forthcoming.

### Visions

Description forthcoming.

### Bibliography of Related Information

Macdonald, Simon. "Identifying Mrs Meeke: Another Burney Family Novelist." *The Review of English Studies*. V 64, Issue 265: 367-385. Oxford University Press: London. 2013.

Schiller, Friedrich. *The Ghost-Seer; Or, Apparitionist. An Interesting Fragment, Found Among The Papers Of Count O\*\*\*\*\* From The German Of Schiller [Electronic Resource]*. n.p.: London : printed for Vernor and Hood, Birchin-Lane; Binns, Leeds; and Rawson, Hull, MDCCXCV. [1795], 1795.

Lowell, James Russell. "The Ghost-Seer." *Complete Poetical Works Of James Russell Lowell*(1902): 113-116. *Literary Reference center*. Web 5 Dec 2013