


WATERS

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Monthly



ROWENA
ALLISTER

Dr. Kinsey of
Vamp Studies?

Slayer Expert

Faith Lehane

Top 10 Tips To
Fight Demons

High Priestess

Althea Dimmon

Devon Coven Leader
Speaking Out on Love,
Life and the Wiccan Way

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All Along The Watchtower

A conversation with Rowena Allister

by Gloria Blue

Editors Note: This interview was conducted a few weeks prior to an incident at the Watchers Council that left two slayers, Violet Joston and Marly MacRae mortally wounded. Rowena herself suffered burns on 40% of her body, however, she still remains with the Council and on the mend. We at *Watchers Monthly* would like to take the time to offer our condolences to the family, friends and co-workers of Ms. Joston and Ms. MacRae and we hope that Ms. Allister makes a speedy recover.



So how's the life of a cover girl treating you? It's all pretty surreal because...that's just not me.

I saw the sexy photo shoot and you look fantastic. ~blushing~ I'm pretty self-conscious. I've never seen myself as sexy but...

But what? ~laughing~ Let's just say my girlfriend loves the pictures and leave it at that. ~laughing~

Fair enough. Let's talk about your career at the Watchers Council. Now you took over as Head Watcher when Rupert Giles retired but you decided to step down. Why? My work life was conflicting with my personal life and I had to make a choice.

Ms. Rosenberg? Yes, I left my post as chair to be with Willow and I don't regret it.

But you're still with the council, right? Absolutely. You see the council has three main divisions, the Watchers, the Coven and the Slayers in no particular order. They share power equally. With me as the head of the Watchers division we often came in conflict with each other that spilled into our personal life. So I had to make a decision – my work life or home life? I picked Willow. She's my home.

Why didn't Ms. Rosenberg leave her post? Well, what Willow does is somewhat of a specialty. Not that being a watcher isn't special because it is. It's much like a slayer; it's a sacred trust you're given. But I also know that it's much harder to find a qualified high priestess to lead the Coven. Something had to give...so I gave. I stepped down and I kept a wonderful woman I adore.

Sounds like things are going well for you then? Things couldn't be better and I can say I've never been this happy in my life, ever. I've got someone I love more than life and I'm doing research work that I think will have a powerful impact on the world.

What are you researching exactly? Vampires.

I thought they were kind of cut and dry. Are you saying they're not? I'm saying *maybe* they're not. We have a vampire in our residence who's been helping me in my studies. We've always had conflicting reports about what vampires can and can't do, as well as how they behave.

So any theories yet? I'm leaning toward a concept of siring. The sire is the vampire that makes another vampire. There might be a connection between not just an individuals' personality they had in life, but also who's doing the siring.

So I vampire may or may not be evil depending on who bites them? That's what I'm thinking but I still have tons of data I'd have to go over to try to prove the theory. Now that's not to say that vampires aren't a threat. In general, a vampire is still an evil demon and shouldn't be trusted.

So how do you know who's good and who's bad? Like I said, you can't tell. For safety sake, it's best to avoid them altogether.

So what have you discovered so far? One of the more interesting tests I ran was taking away blood from a vampire. We learned that it can have a physical effect but also a psychological one. The vamp who volunteered for our test began to hallucinate, which is something I thought might happen but couldn't prove until the test was completed.

So can vampires eat regular food? Yes, they can but they need blood too.

Can they have sex? ~blushing~ Yes, I'm told they can have sex too.

But you haven't tested that theory yourself? ~laughing~ No, not personally. But we do have it on good authority that yes, vampires can have sexual relations with other vampires or humans.

Really? ~grinning~ Yes, really. In many ways they are like normal people who work a graveyard shift. And we've been tracking one group in particular that have been doing it for nearly a year now. They hold jobs, they buy animal blood and they avoid trouble.

Are all vampires like this? I'd have to say no. The call of the demon is too strong but I'm starting to theorize that perhaps humans can fight the beast instincts of being a vampire. I don't believe it's easy but I no longer think it's impossible.

Because of your test subject? In their case, yes. In others I can't say but I think it's worth exploring.

Now how did you get into the Watchers Council? I'm what you call a Chosen Watcher. Much like potential slayers, when we only had one girl in the world, we also had people who were named to look after these potentials. Often it came from a family line. For example, Mr. Giles father was a watcher and he learned at a young age of his calling. But for me, no one in my family was a Watcher.

So what happened? They showed up to my home in Nova Scotia when I was a pre-teen and I was sent to the Watchers Academy in London.

Did you enjoy your new studies? As much as any teenager I suppose. But I did find demonology fascinating and I pretty much submerged myself into that, especially...especially after I was raped.

You were raped? Yes, when I was 15, one of the librarians attacked me. My parents wanted to bring me home afterward but the head of the council at the time, Mr. Travers, he convinced me to stay, and he often checked in on me.

What did he say? Well, he promised first that the council would see that charges would be brought against the man and since the Council wasn't public at that time they pretty much had their own jurisdiction. When the attack happened I went straight to the school nurse and she, she really helped stand up for me at the hearing...If I had gone to the dorm first, cleaned up...well...he might have went on to hurt someone else but...he didn't.

He's still in jail then? He was. Last I heard he was killed in the explosion the First Evil set off that destroyed the council.

That had to be so difficult. It was but...it's one of the reasons I'm a good Watcher now. And I think everything happens for a reason. Like I said, filling my head with knowledge kept me distracted so I didn't have to think about it. And for years I didn't. Not until Willow.

I'm not sure I understand? How can I surmise this briefly. ~laughing~ Let's see Willow fell for me and I fell for Willow but I loved her too much to make her deal with my baggage. But I realized after I went away one summer that she's everything I could ever hope for so I had to stop being afraid and start moving forward. I told her about what happened and she...

She what? ~pause~ Willow can be one of the most temperamental, pig-headed women on the planet. But she can also be incredibly patient and gentle and caring. Like I said, she's home to me - a place I feel safe and loved and that's something I haven't had in a really long time.

So what do you guys like to do together? Neither one of us are what you'd call big partiers. Our idea of a fun night is staying home and making chicken noodle soup. I know, boring to most people. But I think we deal so much with being on the edge, that 'we must save the world' mentality, that by the end of the day we just want to feel 'normal'. We don't need to get drunk or go bungee jumping to find excitement. We get enough of that feeling at work. ~laughing~

So what do you enjoy doing beside playing chef? I like fencing and did pretty good at the academy. I actually won a competition there that Mr. Giles had won years earlier, although he's never told me what year. ~laughing~ I can ice-skate too but other than that I really have no sense of rhythm. I dance like a goofy Canadian white girl. ~laughing~ But Willow can't stand upright on skates so it's something I do alone out on the lake when it freezes. Buffy (Summers) says we can go this winter because she skates too so I'm looking forward to that. Just no racing since she's got the slayer advantage. ~laughing~ *WM*



SLAYER SPOTLIGHT

TOP 10 TIPS FOR DEALING WITH DEMONS

By Faith Lehane

10 – Leave Killing Things To The Professionals

If it's at all possible, do not engage in combat with a demon. I don't care if you're a Chinese weightlifter or Carl Lewis, they are probably stronger and faster than you.

9 – If It's Too Good To Be True, It Probably Is

Hey, this hot guy wants to take me home and seems really interested in everything I have to say... but first we have to walk down this really dark alley. What? He's a demon? Even some of my friends here at the Council constantly get burned by this trick.

8 – Keep an Open Mind

Just because somebody's got horns doesn't make them evil. If you take the time to meet the friendly demons who may be living in your neighborhood, you might just make some new friends.

7 – Keep Your Distance

Even if a demon is out for blood, it probably won't go after you if you do a

good enough job of avoiding it. It may seem like common sense, but yes, when you see a Marsaulix demon, the best thing to do is run the other way.

6 – Ask the Council

Not to toot our own horn here, but it's really the best place for you to get the information or protection you may need. Get informed, and if you're in danger, don't hesitate to ask for help.

5 – Stay With a Buddy

There's safety in numbers, and it has been statistically proven that the likelihood of a demon attack decreases greatly when you're with someone else.

4 – Try Not to Sleep With Them

It just complicates things.

3 – Don't Make Assumptions

It can be hard to tell good demons from ones that are trying to kill you, and vice versa. If you make the wrong assumptions, innocent people could get killed... including you.

2 – Be Prepared

If you go out after dark without a cross or a stake, you're asking for trouble. You can't protect yourself if you don't have



Head of the Slayer Division, Faith Lehane

1 – Don't Die

The number one rule of Slaying was taught to me by Buffy [Summers], the greatest slayer who ever lived. Unfortunately, I haven't always been able to follow it, but it's still good advice.

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Coven Chat



...with Altheena Dimmons, Devon High Priestess

Now that the familiar is out of the bag, I am often asked to talk about the so-called ancient religion of Wicca. I'd like to use this opportunity to clear up a few misconceptions about the Craft and hopefully enlighten a few who are truly interested in seeking a new path.

First off, Wicca is not an ancient religion. It was promulgated by a Brit named Gerald Gardner who publicized his version of the religion in the late 1940s. In his writings, Gardner claimed that Wicca was the modern version of the old witch cult of pre-Christian Pagan Europe. His tradition is now known as Gardnerian Wicca. Other traditions have since gained popularity, including Alexandrian Wicca, Arcadian Wicca, Celtic Wicca, Stregheria, and many, many others.

Which is the true Wicca? They all are. For each individual who keeps the core Wiccan values in their hearts and for each Coven who meet at the full moons, their versions of Wicca are the right one.

In Wicca, there is no centralised organisation or orthodoxy, no single priest or priestess governing all and certainly no one telling anyone that they must worship a certain god or goddess in a particular way on certain days of the year. Wicca is a way for the individual to seek their own path to communion with the forces of nature.

Many Wiccans do hold certain values in common. They traditionally worship a goddess and a god, they observe the eight solar festivals of the year and meet on the full moons, and they keep a code of ethics to live by. The most of important of these Wiccan values is "If it harms none, do what you will," and the closely related "Law of Threefold Return," meaning that anything one does (good or bad) will be returned multiplied.

Magic is a big part of Wicca and when the Council let the whole shenanigan out of the broom closet, many people were surprised that magic was real and fearful of so-called "black" magic.



On its own, magic is not good or evil, white or black, light or dark. It is – to make a major simplification – a simple harnessing of energy in order to fulfil a certain purpose. It is the intent of the magic wielder which determines if the purpose is good or evil. Again, the rule of three applies...I've seen what dark magic can do to a person and I caution anyone to make sure they contemplate the consequences before performing any kind of magic. And all magic has consequences.

Wiccans are of all races, backgrounds, professions, orientations. Many do embrace the so-called "alternative" lifestyles and willingly accept people who walk outside the norm. For Wiccans, love is the highest form of worship and we cherish people and non-people of all kinds. Wiccans do not judge others. They take responsibility for their own lives and their own actions and hold others in complete respect.

As part of their historical heritage, Wiccans prefer to practice in private, which is getting harder and harder to do in these post-apocalyptic days. We do not proselytise to seek out converts and most traditions keep their rituals and practices secret from outsiders.

Although, personally I subscribe to the belief of "Keep the secrets and reveal them constantly." The more "hidden" a religion is, the more misunderstood it is. In this newly changing world, we need to keep misunderstandings to a minimum. And hopefully, we'll make it a much better place.

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