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The Boy-Toy World of P.L. Nunn

by [Kat Avila](#)

When you surf over to **Bishonen Works**, the mesmerizing Dark Prince of P.L. Nunn's original yaoi fiction **Bloodraven** welcomes you, embraces you, lubricates your imagination. The bronze-haired Lord Elvardo is wearing nothing more than a midnight black cloak that accentuates the paleness of his smooth, inviting skin. In his hands are the keys to his power: his left hand exudes the cool balled fire of ancient magic and his right hand is wrapped tightly, provocatively around his cock. Welcome to the bishounen-filled world of artist and writer P.L. Nunn!

[Editor's note: In other words, the **Bishonen Works** website is Not Work Safe.]

P.L. Nunn is a familiar American creator of fan and original yaoi fiction and doujinshi (self-published comics). Her web site, **Bishonen Works**, over six years old, boasts over 30 image collections (much of it fan art labeled "Adults only"), a slightly larger number of fan and original fics, and about 30 doujinshi.

She was born and raised in Virginia, where she still resides, and has a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Virginia Commonwealth University. Nunn has been working as a full-time freelance artist for almost three years.

Sequential Tart: *The first time I ran across your work was in 2001, if not online, then it was in the **Yaoi-Con 2001***

official doujinshi anthology **Shonen Hump**. You contributed a 15-page **Saiyuki** fan comic, **Vindication: An Interlude**. You wrote the story and illustrated most of it, the last five pages being drawn by Wetheril. For the 2002 edition, you contributed a 10-page **Weiss Kreuz (Knight Hunters)** fan comic, **Blood Stained Illusions**. What happened after that?

P.L. Nunn: I started contributing to the **Minkland** anthology, which is also an annual yaoi collection that gets pimped at **Yaoi-Con** each year, as well as sold online off Mink's **Ronin [Yaoi] Cake** site.

ST: *You've written and illustrated for a number of fandoms, e.g., **Saiyuki**, **Weiss Kreuz (Knight Hunters)**, **Ronin Warriors**, **Gundam Wing**, **Yami no Matsuei (Descendants of Darkness)**. At the moment, what newly discovered fandom is stoking your fire?*

PN: **Final Fantasy VII**, thanks to *Advent Children*, which just blew my mind. I'm currently in the midst of a Cloud Strife addiction.

ST: *My favorite yaoi fan fiction is **Beautiful Stranger**, pairing Seiji of **Ronin Warriors** with Aya of **Weiss Kreuz**. You wrote this in collaboration with T-Pod. Another person you have worked with is Chalcedony Cross. What prompted the collaborations?*

PN: I honestly can't recall why Tracy and I started **Beautiful Stranger**, but it did turn out well, didn't it? T-pod actually turned me on to Chal's work, and I fell in love with **Grausame Maskerade** and had to illustrate a scene. I was initially only going to do the bathroom sex between Yoji and Aya, but it evolved into a three-part series. Chal's work has always inspired me, so I've turned several of her lovely stories into doujinshi.

ST: *One of the most beautifully romantic and sexy passages I have ever read is in your original 45-chapter epic **Dynasty of Ghosts**. It's Prince Ashe's birthday and late enough that most everyone has retired for the night. The skittish Illya, a*

pretty boy ranger in Ashe's army, tentatively knocks on Ashe's door to apologize for not getting him a gift. I never tire of reading what follows. Was that easy to write?

PN: At the time, **Ghosts** was just flowing out of me. That scene had been worked out long before, and it was a joy to finally get to write it.

ST: *I just finished perusing your doujinshi **Dynasty of Magic**, a sequel to **Dynasty of Ghosts**. What made you decide to continue telling Ashe and Illya's story?*

PN: I'd always planned on doing a sequel to **Ghosts**. Just somewhere along the way the Muses got distracted by other things, and it got shuffled aside. They still aren't begging me to write on the **Dynasty** series, but one day I will seriously take it up again.



**Illya and Ashe from
P.L. Nunn's Dynasty of Ghosts
© P.L. Nunn**

ST: *I enjoy reading your ongoing original fan fiction **Bloodraven**, now up to 17 chapters, as much as **Ghosts**. But I almost choked on the violence and rape in the first related doujinshi; the beautiful forest creature Yhalen is captured by 10-foot-tall ogres who don't know how to play nice. Still, what I find attractive about your work is its fearlessness and honesty; you have this expressive range from ruthlessly cruel to tenderly intimate. Is there any area where you hesitate to venture?*

PN: Other than abusing children, I'm not shy about exploring all manner of humanity's dark kinks.

ST: *You have a distinct, easily recognizable drawing style. While appreciatively gazing at the cover of your 2006*

*Bishonen Works calendar, featuring Yoji and Aya of **Weiss Kreuz** nuzzling each other, I thought there was a combined line texture and outline roughness that makes your pretty boys almost seem as if they are "carved" as much as they are drawn. Your pretty boys aren't cute, but pouty and more real, yet not so real that they are taken out of the comic and manga realm.*

PN: My boys have evolved over the years into what you see now. It took a lot of trial and error and inspiration and practice to whip them into shape. I've always been an American comic book fan, as well as a Japanese manga fan, and I think I melded the two styles into something that appealed to me.

ST: *In an August 2005 interview at **AkibaAngels.com**, you said that you pencil and ink by hand, scan, then finish toning and coloring in Photoshop. What are you specifically drawing with?*

PN: I do everything in regular 2H pencils and then ink them with a wonderful brand of pen called ZIG. It has a variety of point sizes which come in use.

ST: *Your poses are dynamic, sexy, emotionally evocative. What reference materials do you use?*

PN: Most of it comes out of my head. For problem poses or anything that I'm feeling uncertain about, I'll hunt down a photo of a similar pose and use it for reference. I enjoy working from models; it gives that added element of realism.

ST: *You draw your doujinshi from fully fleshed-out stories, which probably helps give your DJs the emotional depth they have. How long does it take*

you adapt the story and draw the doujinshi?

PN: Once I find a story I want to work with, not long at all. I also like to work the other way around and do the art before the story or script is fleshed out. **The Pack** and my newest **Weiss** story **Sacrifices** were done that way. Sometimes, I have the thread of a story in mind, but would rather let the art express itself to its fullest without the constraints of having to stick to a script.



**From a commissioned series of
fem boys
© P.L. Nunn**

ST: *What does your work studio look like? What luscious posters decorate your walls?*

PN: It's a mess. I get so involved in working that I forget to pick up sometimes. Things are scattered, cats are sprawled.

ST: *What artists did you grow up admiring?*

PN: Michael Whelan, Boris [Vallejo], tons of fantasy book cover artists. Whelan is still one of my favorites. I've been in a Alphonse Mucha phase lately and have been collecting that era's art.

ST: *Whom do you read? Favorite TV shows?*

PN: C.J. Cherryh, C.S. Freidman, and a collection of romance books are currently littering my night table. I watch **Lost**, **House**, **Nip/Tuck**, **Grey's Anatomy**, **Stargate SG-1**, the new **Battlestar Gallactica**. The TV's in my studio, so it's on a lot while I'm working.

ST: *Where are the **Bishonen Works** graphic novels?!*

PN: Good question. Maybe next year.

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[P. L. Nunn's Bishonen Works](#) — the official web site.

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