

Early Theatre

**2025 Prize for Best Note or Issues in Review Essay, Volumes 26–27
Honourable Mention**

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‘Through the Looking Glass: Reflections of the Prodigal Daughter’

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This trenchant and elegant analysis of George Gascoigne's *Glass of Government* (1575) both illuminates the latent prodigal daughter plot within this 'prodigal sons' play and formulates a new interpretative lens: prodigal reading. By excavating references to the prodigal sons' 'lewd company' – Echo, Dick Drum and Lamia – Suthren persuasively makes the case for the latter as a prodigal daughter whose subplot parallels the sons of the main. In doing so, this essay powerfully challenges Lamia's ostensible disposability: by relegating Lamia off stage at key moments, Gascoigne's play enables its prodigal daughter to break free of the confines of the text and into a space of narrative liberation. Suthren awards Lamia an 'alternative space' where she can thumb her nose at prodigal sons who may be welcomed home, but cannot enjoy what the prodigal daughter gains: her own space with no apologies needed.