HORROR and PHILOSOPHY

Essays on Their Intersection in Film, Television and Literature

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The Horror Versus L'Indagatore dell'Incubo

The Dionysian, Irrational, and Absurd in Dylan Dog*'s Narrative*

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Dylan Dog, l'Indagatore dell'Incubo (the nightmare investigator), lives and works at 7 Craven Road in London. The comic book character is English, but he was created in Italy by Tiziano Sclavi in 1986, and it is still published today monthly. Dylan had enormous success, not only in Italy but worldwide. His job is to investigate, together with his assistant, Groucho, the paranormal, the irrational, the nightmare that can assume different forms and aspects. Dylan fights against all types of monsters: vampires, zombies, werewolves, witches, even against Death itself. However, the horror that he faces is not always paranormal. The monsters are often extremely human. Maybe that is the reason why Dylan remains extremely skeptical and rational.

Everything in Dylan Dog's world revolves around the absurd, the chaos without explanation, without sense, and the need to find meaning in it. This chaos can take different forms: the horror that Dylan fights, but also the satirical and nonsense humor of Groucho. This irrational dimension manifests itself also through Dylan's love and sexual life: in almost every story, Dylan falls in love with a different woman, who usually will die or will break his heart. Love and sex are strongly connected with horror and death in *Dylan Dog*'s narrative: they are irrational forces, from which it is not possible to escape.

The purpose of this essay is to analyze the irrational and fearful dimension in *Dylan Dog*: *l'orrore*, as he calls it, but also its connection to sexuality and the comic relief provided by Groucho. This chaotic and monstrous reality will be analyzed mainly—but not only—through