

Dyson, Jeremy (1966 -) Leeds born and raised, Jeremy Dyson is now better known for being the co-creator of the town of Royston Vasey, and being the unseen face of *The League of Gentlemen*.. Having studied both Philosophy at Leeds University and Screenwriting at the Northern School of Film and Television, it is perhaps no surprise that as well as his work on television he was asked to write the forward for a recent translation of Dostoevsky's *The Double*. He has published one collection of short-stories: *Never Trust a Rabbit*. Treading the spectrum from Poe to Peake, his view on the world, while skewed, is still familiar. It is in provoking this sensation of recognition that he is able to unsettle the reader.

'City Deep', a disturbing story, seems remarkably prescient, with its main character's stated fear of travelling on the London Underground in case of "[s]ome terrible bomb left by a vengeful terrorist". It then takes this fear further and darker in a way which recalls H.P. Lovecraft.

Another story which stands clear from the rest is 'At Last' in which two young Jewish boys, led to fear that the crowd that they can hear gathering in the streets is a mob which has "come for the Jews again" find that it is a gathering of fellow Jews walking the streets in an affirmation of life. While ostensibly positive, this story seems representative of the collection as it discomfits evens as it uplifts. In the final story, 'All in the Telling', Dyson brings it all to a close with a howl of outrage in which the telling of stories is equated, and then replaced, with purchased sex.

Critics have been largely positive about his writing, listing a number of writers whom they feel Dyson emulates, but it is his contemporary

resonance which makes him interesting. Gothic influences, yes, but tempered with modern fear and anger that make the stories his own.