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"A sinister cabal of superio

Philip K. Dick: Reflections on the 30th Anniversary of his Death

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Author: Colin Corlett — Published: Mar 01, 2012 at 4:41 pm 4 comments

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Thirty years ago, on March 2nd 1982, one of the greatest ever science fiction writers died a pauper. His work is now well known through adaptations such as *Blade Runner* and “*Minority Report*”. He was Philip Kindred Dick.

This is a short memorial to a much troubled but talented man who wrote more than 40 novels and 100 short stories. Let us talk about his life.

Born on 16th December 1928, within six weeks his twin sister, Jane, had died and here was arguably the most important event of his life. In her death she became the “dark twin” who was to be in his mind constantly. Rather bizarrely, her gravestone also had his name on it, with only the date of his death missing.

His father left in 1938 and his mother then took him to California where she continued to support him both during his early life and into his later years. He had troubles dealing with women, was married five times and never really managed to write well about them.

Yet even during the drug-induced troubles of his later years he asked some of the most important questions of the 20th century.

Questions like “How do we know what is real?” and “How do we rise above the mind set of our times and see things in perspective?”

Paranoia and mental illness came to his later days and he had to confront these demons in an age when mental illness was hushed up.

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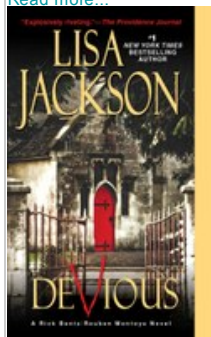
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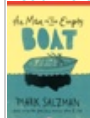
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So let us remember a talented man who tried to see through the many veils of our lives and in so doing left us with some great stories.

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Living in Cumbria ( UK ) on the border between England and Scotland. Interests include exploring the countryside and trying to understand the history which is woven into the fabric of this land.

Other interests: Reading Sci-fi, listening to audio books and walking the dogs.

...

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Mar 02, 2012 at 12:39 am

I didn't know that Dick had had such issues - perhaps that's part of what led to his greatness. While I'd like to be able to claim that Asimov and Heinlein were the two most influential authors in the SF field, it's beginning to look like - with the possible exception of Clarke - Dick will have had the greatest influence as the decades pass by.

### 2 - Colin

Mar 02, 2012 at 4:24 am

Hello Glenn,  
Heinlein helped Dick quite a bit - if my memory serves me right here. Also Dick graduated in the same class as Ursula K LeGuin. A small world indeed.  
Colin

### 3 - Shelagh

Mar 02, 2012 at 6:21 am

An interesting insight into a troubled creative life (sadly, like so many others in history). Written with respect and compassion. I hope others will read this. Thank you.

### 4 - Colin

Mar 02, 2012 at 6:39 am

Hello Shelagh  
Thank you for your kind words. It would be a shame if he was just remembered for his Hollywood blockbuster stories. There was a talented and unique man behind the books  
Colin

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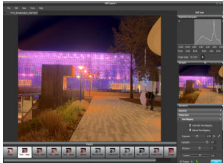
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