

## THE THREE BOGEYMEN

Oil and textiles on canvas

The energetic, jagged forms of 'The Three Dancers' by Picasso are thought to be imbued with the artist's personal recollections of a triangular affair, which resulted in the suicide of his friend Carlos Casegemas. Love, sex and death are linked in an ecstatic dance resulting in a loss of self.

The left-handed dancer in particular seems possessed by uncontrolled, Dionysian frenzy. Her face relates to a mask from New Guinea, owned by the artist, and points to Picasso's association of 'primitive' forms with expressiveness and sexuality.

As an artist I often draw strength from the Surrealist movement, harnessing its energies to produce work of an extraordinary intensity. 'The Three Bogeymen' is one such work. Hybrid figures, part-human, part-animal and part-ghost begin to appear as described by my four year old son in his bedroom at bedtime, and also by Picasso in his depiction.

This work is an interpretative study of Picasso's, and his three dancers have now been substituted by the three bogeymen.

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Funny how trouble comes in threes  
Love and sex and death  
Each begins as a necessary dance  
That ends in frenzy

Funny how these three performances  
Begin as a sideshow  
Then fill the stage  
With their endless encores

The first of these is love  
Finely balanced on slender toes  
Building a prison wall  
For the solitude to follow

The second is sex  
The grim addiction  
That sends love spinning  
In stiletto orbits

The third is death

When you have waltzed with the first  
And jitterbugged through the second  
The third will sweep you off your feet  
So these three bogeymen  
Hide in the wardrobe  
Part human part creature  
Part imagined ghost

And let them not link hands  
Let them not dance together  
The show is too terrible  
The dance too wild

Let them not invite you  
With their Dionysiac arms  
To partner and embrace you  
With their empty charms

Stop the music, stop the dancing,  
Close the curtain, clear the floor -  
I have seen them dance together –  
I can watch no more

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