

"I like Jekyll and Hyde because it is easy to read. The story is gripping, and scary too." Adam, 11

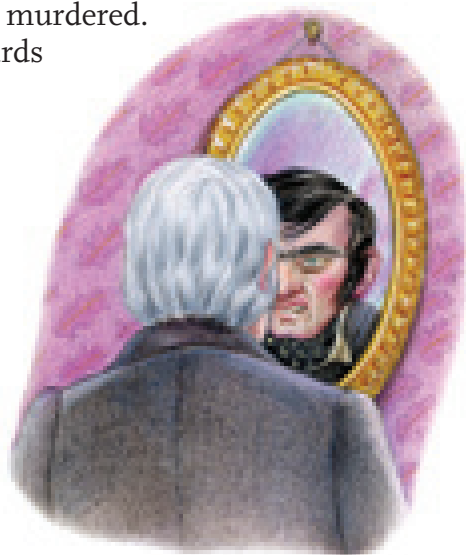
When Dr Henry Jekyll dares to explore the delicate balance between good and evil, he little suspects the destructive powers he will unleash.

In London's respectable society, Jekyll's friends grow concerned. Why has Jekyll suddenly changed his will, and what is his connection with the frightening Mr Hyde?

In London's squalour, a child is trampled and an elderly gentleman brutally murdered. Why do all fingers point towards Mr Hyde?

Is Jekyll strong enough to resist Hyde's strange power? Are Jekyll's friends strong enough to help?

In this exploration of two sides of Victorian London and two sides of human nature, the conflict between good and evil has been given a terrifying twist.



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950L	5.9	5,722

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DR JEKYLL AND MR HYDE R. L. STEVENSON

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THE CHARACTERS



Dr Henry Jekyll

Can this respectable doctor resist the strange powers of Mr Hyde?

Edward Hyde

Who is this man and what is the mysterious hold he has over Dr Jekyll?



Mr Utterson

Mr Utterson is Dr Jekyll's friend and lawyer. Can he solve the mystery? Can he save his friend?



Richard Enfield

What information does Richard Enfield possess? Will he save or condemn Dr Jekyll?



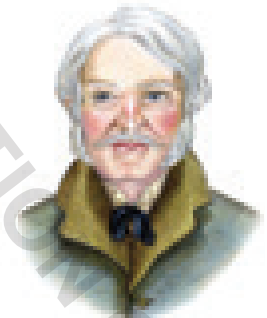
Poole

Poole is Dr Jekyll's faithful butler. Can he save his master from himself?



Dr Hastie Lanyon

Dr Lanyon witnesses a terrifyingly strange event. How will he react?



Inspector Newcomen

Inspector Newcomen is one of Scotland Yard's finest. Can he discover Edward Hyde's true identity, and solve a brutal murder?





DR JEKYLL AND MR HYDE

‘You know,’ Enfield said to his friend Utterson the lawyer as they strolled through a down-at-heel part of London, ‘that house over there is etched in my mind in connection with a strange story.’

‘Indeed?’ Utterson remarked, looking at the sinister block of buildings at which his friend was pointing. ‘Do tell.’

‘I was coming home late, about three o’clock of a black winter morning, and my way lay through this part of town. Just here, where we are standing, I saw the oddest thing. Some fellow trampled calmly all over a young girl, then left her screaming on the ground.’

‘Whatever for?’

Enfield shook his head. ‘No reason, save that she ran into him by accident.’

‘So the girl’s fault, then?’

‘Perhaps. But the man – a singularly distasteful fellow to be sure – made to walk off, until I collared him and then called a doctor to the scene to attend the child.’

‘Was the fellow drunk?’

‘Not to my knowledge. A crowd built up baying for his blood, but the doctor and I held them off.’

‘And this house,’ Utterson said, ‘how is it relevant?’



‘Under threat of a lawsuit on the part of the girl’s parents – which would surely have been successful – we managed to persuade him to pay one hundred pounds as compensation for

his behaviour. At first the fellow was reluctant, but I think he feared the crowd, and finally he

led us to this very dwelling, disappeared inside, and returned with ten pounds in coin and a cheque for the balance.’

‘Hmph!’ Utterson snorted. ‘I’ll wager the cheque was—’

‘No,’ Enfield interrupted. ‘I was wary myself, but we all repaired to my rooms until the bank opened later that day. When we went down to the bank they confirmed that the cheque was genuine, and the family got their ninety pounds.’

‘And that was the end of it?’

Enfield shrugged and nodded, and the pair started to walk again.

‘What was the fellow’s name?’

‘Hyde,’ Enfield replied, his voice little more than a whisper. ‘Edward Hyde. But that wasn’t the name on the cheque.’

Utterson stopped again. ‘Edward Hyde, you say?’

Enfield nodded. ‘Whatever is the matter, my dear Utterson?’

Back in time

Robert Louis Stevenson wrote *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* in 1886, at the age of thirty-six. He was already known for the exciting subject matter of his adventure novels and stories of the fantastic, such as *Treasure Island*, a thrilling adventure story of a search for buried gold. The most exciting of his books, however, and certainly the one which achieved greatest immediate acclaim, was his tale of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde. Within a few months it sold 40,000 copies, and as the century turned it was estimated to have sold more than 250,000.

Stevenson had long been interested in the idea of the two sides – good and evil – of human character. He lived in a society which greatly valued etiquette, reputation and proper manners. Such civilised behaviour tended to cause people to repress other sides of their characters, such as sensuality, physicality, and anger.

At the same time the British were exploring and conquering new worlds, where society often behaved differently, in a way that Victorians

considered ‘savage’. Whilst they might fear the ‘savage’, many Victorians were also fascinated, perhaps because they recognised such tendencies within themselves.

During the nineteenth century, many parts of London had become overcrowded and dirty: poverty and disease were terrible problems. People of Jekyll’s class might have chosen to ignore it, but they could not have been unaware of the existence of ‘less civilised’ people in their midst. Stevenson wanted to explore, in the words of Dr Jekyll, ‘man, not as truly one, but truly two’.

Queen Victoria’s reign saw great progress in science, technology and medicine. By 1886 anaesthetics and antiseptic were in common use, and people were increasingly interested in the potential of science, which led to considerable experimentation. This gave Stevenson the medical background to his story.

Once Stevenson had found a way to write about the two sides of human nature, he attacked the project with such ferocity that the entire book was probably completed in as little as three days.