

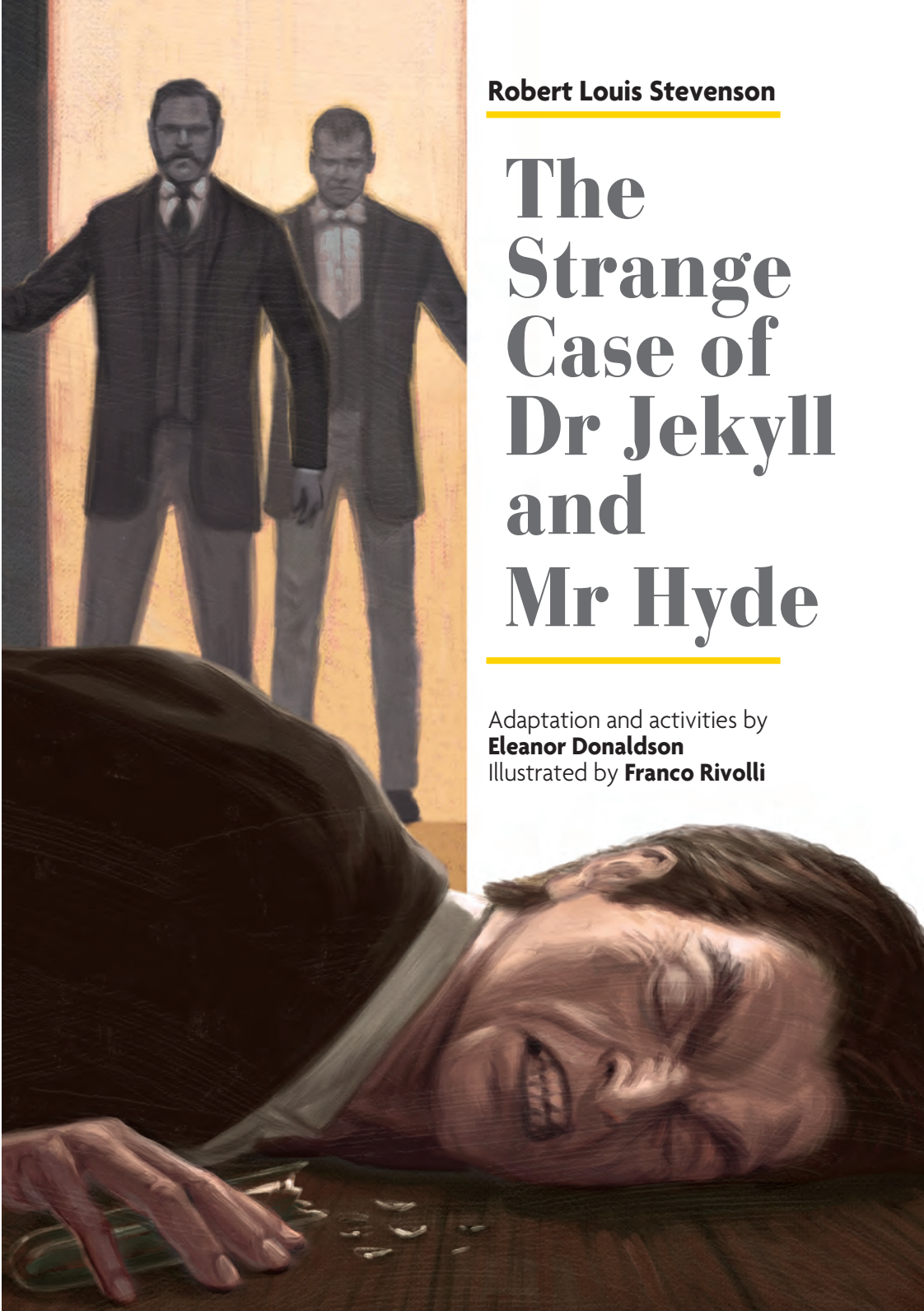
Robert Louis Stevenson

The Strange Case of Doctor Jekyll and Mr Hyde



free Audiobook





Robert Louis Stevenson

The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde

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Member of CISQ Federation



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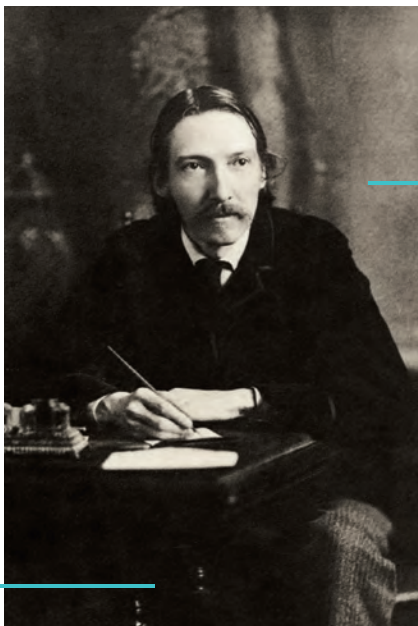
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THE STORY IS FULLY RECORDED



Robert Louis Stevenson

Robert Louis Stevenson was a Scottish writer. As well as novels, he wrote poetry, essays, short stories and travel books.

Stevenson was born in the City of Edinburgh in the middle of the 19th century, in 1850. His father was an engineer and his grandfather and father built lighthouses.¹ His mother came from a family of lawyers and religious ministers.² When he was a child, he became ill with tuberculosis. His nurse,³ Alison Cunningham, stayed with the family to look after him. She was very religious and she told him stories about heaven and hell.⁴ Later, he remembered these frightening stories of good and evil.⁵

When he was seventeen, he went to university in Edinburgh. At first, he studied Engineering, like his father, but he wasn't interested in the subject so he decided to study Law instead. Although in

1. lighthouse :



2. minister : a religious man in some Christian churches.

3. nurse : (here) a person who looks after children (a nanny); a person who looks after someone who is sick.

4. heaven and hell : in some religions, places people go when they die. Heaven is a good place and hell is bad.

5. evil : very bad or unpleasant (opposite of *good*).

1875 he passed an exam to become a lawyer, he never worked as a lawyer. Possibly, he always knew that he wanted to become a writer.

Sadly, Stevenson's ill health as a child meant that he had serious health problems all his life. For this reason, he left the cold, wet weather of Scotland and travelled around France and Spain. On a visit to France in 1876, he met an American woman, Fanny Osbourne. They fell in love, and Stevenson followed her to America, where they were married in 1880 in California.

After a short period of time in California, they went to Scotland and England, but in 1887, Stevenson and Fanny left the country forever. They returned first to America, and then they went to the South Pacific. Finally, they made their home on one of the islands of Samoa in 1890. There the local people called him *Tusitala*, which means 'storyteller' in the local language. Stevenson's health got better, but in 1894, he died suddenly of a brain haemorrhage.⁶ He was only forty-four years old.

Although Robert Louis Stevenson wrote about many of his real-life adventures in his travel books, he is probably best known for his fiction. Stevenson always said he wanted to write exciting

6. brain haemorrhage : when the brain starts to lose a lot of blood.



stories: 'Fiction is to grown men what play is to the child,' he said. His adventure stories were famous, and younger readers still enjoy them. Examples are *Treasure Island* (1883), *Kidnapped* (1886), set in 18th-century Scotland, and *The Black Arrow* (1888), set in a time of war in 15th-century England. However, *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* (1886) and the book he was still finishing when he died, *Weir of Hermiston* (published in 1896), show the dark, adult side of Stevenson.

1 Comprehension Check • Complete the questions with a word from the box. Then match questions (1-8) to an answer (a-h).

job age name city illness famous books wife

1. ☐ In which was Stevenson born?
2. ☐ What did Stevenson's father do?
3. ☐ What did Stevenson have when he was a child?
4. ☐ Where did Stevenson first meet his ?
5. ☐ What does the Samoan *Tusitala* mean?
6. ☐ What type of writing is Stevenson most for?
7. ☐ As well as *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*, which other did Stevenson write?
8. ☐ What was Stevenson when he died?

- a** *Treasure Island, Kidnapped, The Black Arrow* and others
- b** tuberculosis
- c** storyteller
- d** fiction
- e** France
- f** forty-four years old
- g** engineer
- h** Edinburgh

2 Match the sentences to a date on the timeline.



1. ☐ Fanny and Robert were married.
2. ☐ Robert Louis Stevenson was born in Edinburgh, Scotland.
3. ☐ Stevenson died suddenly of a brain haemorrhage.
4. ☐ Stevenson met his wife, Fanny Osborne.
5. ☐ Robert Louis Stevenson went to university.
6. ☐ They made their home on the islands of Samoa.

3 Use the question words in the box to ask and answer questions using dates in the biography.

When was ... ? When did ... ? When did he write ... ?
Who did ... meet in ... ? What happened in ... ? Where did he travel/live in ... ?

4 Stevenson travelled a lot. He wrote travel books as well as fiction. From the information in the biography, circle the names of countries that Stevenson lived in.

Scotland France USA Samoa Canada Australia Japan

5 Quiz • The sentences (1-6) contain some information about Robert Louis Stevenson, but not all of them are true. Can you guess which are true/false? Look at the answers at the bottom of the page. Are you surprised by any of the answers?

1. He wrote stories about the detective Sherlock Holmes.
2. He wrote a book about a journey from Belgium in a canoe.
3. His uncle was also a lighthouse engineer.
4. Stevenson later became known as a national poet.
5. One of Stevenson's favourite hobbies was sailing.
6. In Stevenson's book *Treasure Island*, the sailors were afraid of a 'red spot'.

Key: 1. F – This was Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. 2. T 3. T 4. F – Stevenson wrote poetry, but was not called a national poet like Robert (Rabbi) Burns. 5. T 6. F – It was a black spot.

BEFORE YOU READ

1 Vocabulary • Read the words in the box. Check their meaning. Tick the words you can see in the photographs.

axe ☐ poker ☐ crowd ☐ cheque book ☐ safe ☐ will ☐
 stick ☐ wallet ☐ powders ☐ experiments ☐ papers ☐
 apparatus ☐ test tube ☐



2 Choose the best category (1-5) for the words in the box in exercise 1. (Some words can be in more than one category.)

1. Hard objects 2. Money 3. Documents 4. In the laboratory 5. People

3 Which of these words are about crime and detection?

suspicious forgery company blackmail victim
 inspector witness murder fog mystery pleasant clerk
 friendship desk elegant clue confession

4 Characters • Match the words in A with a word that means the opposite in B.

A

0. ☒ b polite
1. ☐ untidy
2. ☐ bent
3. ☐ glad
4. ☐ cruel
5. ☐ wonderful
6. ☐ good
7. ☐ pretty

B

- a in order
- b rude
- c dreadful
- d ugly
- e unhappy
- f caring
- g straight
- h evil

5 Look at the picture of the characters on page 10. Describe their appearance. Which person do you think looks: a) serious; b) intelligent; c) strange?

6 Titles • Look at the titles in the story (1-8). Read the sentences (a-h). Can you guess in which part of the story the events happen? Match a sentence to a title.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. ☐ Mr Enfield's tale | 5. ☐ The man in the laboratory |
| 2. ☐ The will | 6. ☐ Where is Henry Jekyll? |
| 3. ☐ The murderer | 7. ☐ Dr Lanyon's letter |
| 4. ☐ Dr Lanyon's quarrel | 8. ☐ The confession of Dr Jekyll |

- a A man violently attacks a well-known, important gentleman.
- b The doctor's servant and the lawyer are confused by the doctor's disappearance.
- c Mr Utterson, a lawyer, is confused by his friend's wish to leave his money to a terrible man.
- d Once the lawyer reads his friend's story the mystery becomes clearer.
- e Two doctors disagree strongly. Later, one of them becomes ill.
- f Mr Utterson finally learns the truth about his client in his own words.
- g Mr Utterson's cousin tells him a story about a man and a mysterious door.
- h A strange person asks the servant, Poole, for powders for his experiments.

The Characters

Dr Lanyon



Mr Guest



Mr Enfield



Mr Utterson



Dr Jekyll



Mr Hyde



Poole



CHAPTER 1

Mr Enfield's tale¹

Mr Utterson was known in London as a good, honest lawyer. He was a small, thin man with a serious face. Although he seemed unfriendly, those who knew him said he was caring and a good listener. When a man became his friend, they were a true friend for life and he accepted their faults² with patience. Mr Utterson lived a quiet life. He had enough money to buy nice things, but he was a man of simple pleasures.



track 02

One of these pleasures was to go for a walk every Sunday with his cousin and friend, Mr Richard Enfield. Many people were surprised at their friendship. They did not have many similar interests and the two men often walked in silence, smiling and nodding³ at the people they met in the street. However, they both looked forward

1. **tale** : (here) story.

2. **faults** : the bad things in a person's character.

3. **nodding** : moving their heads up and down to greet, or agree.

to their meetings and they seemed to enjoy each other's company.

It was on one of these walks, in a quiet part of the city, that Mr Enfield told his story. The two friends were walking along a pretty, narrow side street. Every shop window seemed to have attractive displays⁴ of food, clothes and objects for the home. The shops were clean and bright and the sun shone pleasantly on their painted doors. But a little further down, there stood a small, ugly building with no windows. The door was dark and dirty, and no one seemed to live there.

Mr Enfield stopped in front of the house for a moment. Then he said to Mr Utterson, 'Do you see that old house? I can tell you a story about that place.'

'Really?' said Mr Utterson. 'Tell me.'

'Well,' Mr Enfield began. 'One night I was walking home along this street. It was winter, and it was very late. There was nobody in the street. I began to feel frightened. Suddenly, I saw two people. One was a little girl, and the other was a man. The man was walking down the main street. The little girl was running along this street towards the main street. They ran into each other at the corner and the little girl fell down.'

'Then something horrible happened, and I've never been able to forget it. The little girl was on the ground. The man continued walking. He walked right over the girl's body! She began to

4. displays : collections of objects for people to look at.



scream⁵ and cry. The way he walked over her was very frightening. He didn't seem to care.

'I went after the man, and I brought him back. He was a small man, I remember, and there was something strange about him. I hated him the moment I saw him, but I don't know why.

'When we came back to the little girl, there was a crowd in the street. The girl's family was there. There was also a doctor. The girl was all right, but she was crying. Her family was very upset.⁶ We couldn't believe what the man had done. He didn't even say sorry. Everybody was so angry. Some people said they wanted to kill him. We decided to punish⁷ him.

'We told him to pay the girl's family some money. We told him to give them one hundred pounds. It was a lot of money.

"We will tell everybody," I said. "You will have no friends when they know what you did tonight."

"The man was frightened.

"Very well," agreed the man, "I will give the family one hundred pounds."

'It was late at night. It's difficult to find a hundred pounds in the middle of the night. We went with the man, and he came to this old house. He opened the door with a key. He went inside, and he came out with the money. He had ten pounds in notes, and a cheque for ninety pounds. The cheque was not his – it was signed by another man. This other man is very well known in London.

"This is very strange," I thought. "Perhaps the cheque is a forgery." 'I told the horrible man my suspicions.⁸ He laughed at me.

"If you don't trust me," he said, "I'll stay with you until the bank opens."

5. scream : make a loud, high noise of pain and/or fear.

6. upset : unhappy or worried because something unpleasant has happened.

7. punish : do something to someone who has done something wrong.

8. suspicions : (here) thoughts that the cheque was not real.



‘So the man stayed with us, and in the morning we all went to the bank. The bank paid the cheque – it was not a forgery, after all.’

‘Oh!’ said Mr Utterson sadly.

‘I know what you’re thinking,’ Mr Enfield said. ‘If the man who wrote the cheque is a good man, why would he want to be a friend of this dreadful man? Perhaps the man who hurt the girl is blackmailing him.’

Mr Utterson looked at the house again.



‘The man who wrote the cheque,’ he asked his friend, ‘does he live in that house?’

‘No,’ said Mr Enfield, ‘he doesn’t live there. I discovered that later. He lives somewhere else.’

‘So who actually lives in the house?’ Mr Utterson asked.

‘I don’t know,’ Mr Enfield said. ‘I didn’t want to ask too many questions. I don’t like asking questions. But I know that the strange man uses the house very often. I have seen him come in and go out.’

Mr Utterson was silent for a moment. Then he said, ‘I agree with you: it is best not to ask questions sometimes. But tell me, do you know the name of the strange man you saw that night?’

‘Yes,’ answered Mr Enfield. ‘His name is Mr Hyde.’

‘What is he like?’ asked Mr Utterson.

‘He is small,’ said Mr Enfield, ‘and there is something ugly about him. Like I said, I hated him the moment I saw him.’

‘You say that he had a key to the door of this house?’ asked Mr Utterson.

‘Yes, he did,’ Mr Enfield replied. ‘He opened the door with a key.’

Mr Utterson looked sad again. Then he said, ‘I haven’t asked you about the man who wrote the cheque. That is because I believe that I already know his name.’

THINK!

Use a dictionary to find new words in the box. Which of these words are ‘qualities’? Underline Mr Utterson’s qualities. Would you trust him?

*arrogant cold fair caring patient honest brave
cruel irresponsible trustworthy*

Have you ever met someone you didn’t like? How do you feel about Mr Hyde after reading Chapter 1?

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