

Robert Luis Stevenson

## DR JEKYLL AND MR HIDE

# Summary

66 The lawyer, Mr Utterson, was a shy, quiet and serious man. He lived very simply. Mr Utterson's best friend was Richard Enfield. They often took long walks together through the streets of London.

Once they walked through a clean, friendly street. However, there stood a dark, mysterious house. This house reminded Mr Enfield of a strange story. He was walking along the same street once, when a strange, small man and a fast running girl bumped into each other. Then the man walked with his heavy boots over the child's body and left her screaming. The child was not very hurt but Mr Enfield and a doctor who came to her house made the cruel man agree to pay some money to the child's family. The man who was called Mr Hyde brought a cheque, but his name was not written on it. Because the cheque was okay Mr Enfield didn't ask questions about this. Later at his home Utterson took out the will of his old friend Dr Jekyll. In that he said he wished to leave everything to Edward Hyde. Now that Utterson knew something about Hyde the will worried him more than ever. He visited his friend Dr Lanyon, but he didn't know Hyde either. Mr Utterson spent many hours in the street where Hyde was seen. Once he met him. Utterson thought that there was something evil about the man and he was worried about Dr Jekyll. Around the corner from the narrow street was Dr Jekyll's house. Mr Utterson went there and said to the servant that Hyde had walked in through the laboratory door.

A year later a servant girl saw how Hyde murdered an old man with a stick. A letter addressed to Utterson was found by the dead body. A policeman brought the letter to the lawyer and later at the office Utterson recognised the body as Sir Danvers Carew. He and the policeman drove to Hyde's house but he wasn't there. There they found one half of the weapon that was broken during the murder. That same afternoon Mr Utterson visited Dr Jekyll who had heard of the murder, too. Jekyll had received a letter from Hyde that said Hyde was quite safe. Later Utterson found out that Jekyll might have written that letter.

Time passed and Mr Hyde disappeared. Dr Jekyll was happy and invited friends to his house till suddenly on January 12th he refused to see any more visitors.

Days later Mr Utterson was invited to dinner by his friend Lanyon. This man was deadly ill. During the conversation Utterson mentioned Jekyll's name and Lanyon reacted angrily. He wouldn't hear this name in his house.

A day later Dr Utterson wrote to Dr Jekyll. In his letter he asked why he and Dr Lanyon were no longer friends and why Jekyll refused to let friends into his house. Jekyll replied he might travel alone a long, dark way and that he would never meet Lanyon again. A week later Lanyon died.

After his death Utterson received a letter from Lanyon in which was written "Not to be opened until the death or disappearance of Dr H. Jekyll".

On a Sunday afternoon a week later Mr Utterson and his cousin Mr Enfield went for a walk. They passed through the narrow street and walked into the courtyard of Dr Jekyll's house. Jekyll sat at an open window. They talked to each other and Jekyll was very friendly, but however suddenly an expression of fear and horror came over his face. In the next second the window was closed with a bang.

One day in March Mr Poole, Dr Jekyll's servant visited Mr Utterson. He asked him to come with him to Jekyll's house because Jekyll had locked himself for more than a week in his laboratory. There Poole told Utterson that the voice which came from the laboratory was not Jekyll's voice and so they thought Dr Jekyll had been murdered. They also found out that Mr Hyde had murdered him and was in the room. So they broke the laboratory door down with an axe. Inside lay the body of Edward Hyde; he had taken some poison.

Utterson found the will of Dr Jekyll. It was the same as the first will - except the doctor had left everything to Gabriel John Utterson. As Utterson discovered that the will was written on the same day he thought Jekyll had left and ran away.

Then Utterson found another note from Jekyll in which he said Utterson should go home and read Lanyon's letter. This letter said that Dr Jekyll had begged Lanyon to fetch chemical powders, a small bottle and a book from Jekyll's laboratory to Lanyon's house. Lanyon did this and later Hyde came to his house. He drank the liquid and changed into Henry Jekyll. Since then Lanyon wrote he couldn't sleep and felt that he had not long to live. Then Utterson read Jekyll's confession.

Jekyll wrote he kept his two lives to himself. The outside world saw a serious hard-working doctor, but there was also a fun-loving, young man. He wanted to find a drug that could give each side of his character its own separate face and body. So he mixed the liquid. In the beginning he enjoyed the strange new thoughts and passions but as time passed Hyde became more and more evil and stronger than Dr Jekyll did. He needed larger doses in order to stay in Jekyll's body. Eventually the last of the old chemicals were used and so Jekyll brought the life of an unhappy man with poison to an end.

# Main Characters

The most important characters of the story are:

- ❖ Mr. Utterson; a lawyer, centre of the story, a good friend of Jekyll and Lanyon, a positive character
- ❖ Dr. Lanyon; good friend of Utterson and Jekyll, seems to be rather fragile as a person (he died soon after knowing the truth about Jekyll)
- ❖ Dr. Jekyll; our hero, a good man in his essence, but his experiments change all his being, he changes into
- ❖ Mr. Hyde; represents pure evil, Satan himself, brings out every vice of dr. Jekyll

Physically they are the same, but mentally they are completely opposite

# Vocabulary

These were unknown or strange words I have found in the story:

- conscious: able to understand what is happening
- registered letter: a letter sent by post for which one pays more than usual for special treatment. The sender gets an official note from the post office.
- rid: get rid of - cause to disappear
- safe: a metal cupboard with very strong lock and is used to keep valuable papers, money
- scorn: having a very low opinion of;
- sign: write one's name at the end
- slope: the way letters lean
- will: a paper that a person has signed to show what is to happen to his or her money, house, after his/her death
- confess: say that one has done wrong; a confession is saying or writing that one has done wrong

# Answers to questions from the book

- Mr Utterson was a lawyer.
- Utterson and Enfield always went for a walk on Sundays.
- He walked over her.
- Mr. Enfield caught the small man.
- The money was for the girl and her family.
- We know that that man was like the devil himself.
- He knew the owner of the cheque. He was a very famous person.
- Dr. Jekyll's.
- He went to see Dr. Lanyon.

- "Have you ever met Mr. Hyde?"
- "No."
- In the street of the little shops.
- On the opposite side.
- He spoke to Mr. Hyde.
  
- At Dr. Jekyll's.
- He promised not to question Dr. Jekyll about Mr. Hyde.
  
- In her room.
- Because of the moon (it was shining very brightly that night).
- Because of those terrible sounds and sights.
- A police officer.
- Unburnt remains.
  
- In his laboratory.
- About Hyde's letter to him.
- He was a specialist in handwritings.
- He noticed that Dr. Jekyll's and Mr. Hyde's handwritings are very similar.
  
- Dr. Lanyon was dying.
- Lanyon died.
  
- Poole did.
- To get out as soon as possible.
- He wanted more pure medicine.
- Mr. Utterson did.
- Hyde killed himself.
- He didn't know what to do.
  
- Some chemicals from his house.
- In his drawer.
- He drank it.
- A transformation from Hyde to Jekyll.
- Hyde did.
  
- So that he could do bad thing unpunished.
- Because he represented pure evil.
- He transformed into Jekyll.
  
- To find Hyde.
- In a park.
- Because everybody would see him.
- Because he told his servants not to let anyone in.
- The one, which had a special chemical, he didn't know about.
- He killed himself.