

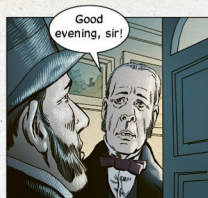
# DR. JEKYLL & MR. HYDE

THE ULTIMATE GRAPHIC RETELLING TO  
GUIDE YOU THROUGH THE CLASSICS



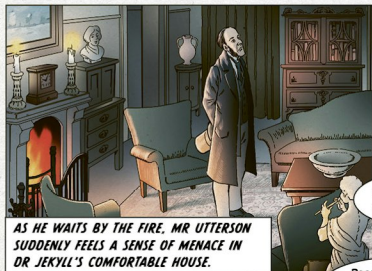
**ROBERT LOUIS STEPHENSON**

ILLUSTRATED BY PENKO GELEV  
RETOLD BY FIONA MCDONALD



Good evening, sir!

UTTERTSON DOES NOT GO HOME. INSTEAD, HE GOES TO THE SQUARE OF HANDSOME OLD HOUSES WHERE DR JEKYL LIVES. ALTHOUGH IT'S LATE, THE LAMPS ARE STILL BURNING BRIGHTLY. MR UTTERTSON KNOCKS AT THE FRONT DOOR. POOLE, THE BUTLER, LETS HIM IN.



AS HE WAITS BY THE FIRE, MR UTTERTSON SUDDENLY FEELS A SENSE OF MENACE IN DR JEKYL'S COMFORTABLE HOUSE.



POOLE RETURNS.

Dr Jekyll has gone out, sir.

Poor Harry Jekyll — he is in deep waters!



We all have orders to obey him.

AS MR UTTERTSON LEAVES, HE ASKS POOLE WHETHER HE HAS EVER SEEN MR HYDE. YES, HE HAS — AND HE ADDS SOME STARTLING INFORMATION.



Things cannot continue as they are!



TWO WEEKS LATER, DR JEKYL INVITES SOME OLD FRIENDS TO HIS HOME.



I have been wanting to speak to you. You know that will of yours?

MR UTTERTSON IS THE LAST TO LEAVE.



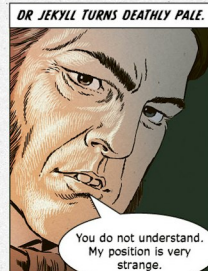
An excellent fellow, but hidebound,<sup>1</sup> ignorant!

DR JEKYL LOOKS ANNOYED. HE WILL CLEARLY WORRIES HIM. HE TRIES TO CHANGE THE SUBJECT: HE TALKS ABOUT THEIR FRIEND DR HASTIE LANYON.



You know I never approved of it. I have been learning something of young Hyde.

BUT MR UTTERTSON IS DETERMINED TO HELP HIS FRIEND JEKYL IF HE CAN. SO HE CONTINUES TO TALK ABOUT THE WILL.



DR JEKYL TURNS DEATHLY PALE.

You do not understand. My position is very strange.



Help Hyde for my sake, when I am no longer here!

DR JEKYL SAYS HE IS SORRY, BUT HE CANNOT CHANGE THE WILL. HE WON'T EXPLAIN WHY, BUT HE DECLARES THAT HYDE IS NOT AS BAD AS UTTERTSON FEARS, AND PROMISES THAT HE CAN GET RID OF HYDE ANY TIME HE CHOOSES. THEN HE MAKES AN URGENT PLEA.



Well... I promise!

RELUCTANTLY, MR UTTERTSON AGREES, BUT HE IS PUZZLED — AND FEARFUL. WHAT CAN THESE DESPERATE WORDS MEAN? WHAT TERRIBLE FUTURE LIES AHEAD FOR DR JEKYL AND THE MYSTERIOUS MR HYDE?

1. hidebound: not interested in new ideas.



THE REPULSIVE MAN ASKED DR LANYON FOR A MEASURING GLASS, THEN TOOK SOME WHITE POWDER AND RED LIQUID FROM THE DRAWER AND MIXED THEM TOGETHER.



THE MIXTURE FIZZED AND BUBBLED.



IT TURNED DEEP PURPLE...



...AND FINALLY BRIGHT GREEN.



SMILING BROADLY, HYDE TURNED TO DR LANYON.

And now new knowledge and power shall be laid open to you!



Sir, you speak enigmas!<sup>1</sup>



Behold!



AAARGH!



HYDE GASPED, STAGGERED AND CLUNG ON TO THE TABLE, STARING WITH WILD EYES AND PANTING, OPEN-MOUTHED.

1. enigma: riddles, mysteries.



THEN HIS FACE SEEMED TO SWELL...



...THE FEATURES SEEMED TO MELT AND CHANGE...



...AND THERE BEFORE DR LANYON STOOD HENRY JEKYL!



O God!  
O God!



LANYON SAT SHAKING, SICKENED AND APPALLED, AS DR JEKYL BEGAN TO EXPLAIN. EVERY WORD SEEMED LIKE A DEADLY BLOW, DESTROYING HIS MIND, HIS SOUL, HIS REASON! HIS WHOLE WORLD COLLAPSED AROUND HIM, LEAVING ONLY HORROR, HORROR, HORROR.



My life is shaken to its roots. I must die!



'I saw what I saw, I heard what I heard, and my soul sickened at it.'

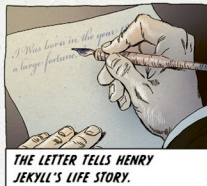
DR LANYON COULD NOT BRING HIMSELF TO WRITE DOWN ALL THE FOUL SECRETS DR JEKYL TOLD HIM. BUT HE DID RECORD, IN HIS LETTER TO MR LITTONSON, THAT DR JEKYL CONFESSED TO BEING EDWARD HYDE - THE MURDERER OF SIR DANVERS CAREW!



MR UTTERSON CAN HARDLY BELIEVE WHAT DR LANYON HAS WRITTEN. HOW CAN JEKYLL AND HYDE BE THE SAME PERSON?



WITH TREMBLING HANDS HE OPENS THE SEALED LETTER THAT HE FOUND BESIDE DR JEKYLL'S NEW WILL. WILL THIS EXPLAIN THE MYSTERY? FRANTICALLY, HE READS ON...

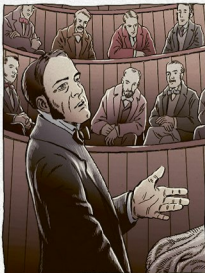


THE LETTER TELLS HENRY JEKYLL'S LIFE STORY.

'I WAS BORN TO A RICH, RESPECTABLE FAMILY. AS A YOUNG MAN I WAS INTELLIGENT, HARDWORKING, KEEN TO WIN PRAISE AND FAME. A BRIGHT FUTURE LAY AHEAD FOR ME.'



'ALONE AT NIGHT AND AT CROWDED SCIENTIFIC LECTURES, I STUDIED HARD TO CURE SICKNESS AND EASE SUFFERING.'



'MY ONLY FAULT WAS A LIGHT-HEARTED LOVE OF PLEASURE. I ENJOYED HAVING FUN! I NEVER BROKE THE LAW OR HARMED ANYONE.'



'BUT, EVEN SO, I FELT DEEPLY ASHAMED. I WAS PROUD, AND WANTED TO APPEAR PURE AND NOBLE. SO I KEPT MY PLEASURES SECRET, AND BEGAN TO FEEL EXTREMELY GUILTY ABOUT THEM.'



Man is not truly one, but truly two!

'I CAME TO THINK THAT THERE WERE TWO SIDES TO HUMAN NATURE: THE GOOD AND THE EVIL.'



It is the curse of mankind!

'THE GOOD SIDE AND THE BAD SIDE ARE TIGHTLY JOINED TOGETHER. IF ONLY THEY COULD BE PARTED!'



'ONE DAY, IN MY LABORATORY, I CREATED AN EXCITING - AND DANGEROUS - NEW POTION. IT WAS DESIGNED TO SEPARATE THE GOOD AND BAD PARTS IN EACH PERSON.'



'I DRANK IT IN ONE GULP! TERRIBLE PAINS FOLLOWED: A GRINDING IN MY BONES, DREADFUL SICKNESS, AND NAMELESS TERROR.'



Eurghh!



I feel younger, lighter, happier!



'SOON THE PAIN PASSED, AND DELIGHTFUL NEW SENSATIONS GRIPPED ME. BUT I FOUND I WAS ALSO MUCH SMALLER...



...AND MOST UNPLEASANT TO LOOK AT! MY WHOLE FACE AND BODY HAD BECOME CRUEL AND UGLY, JUST LIKE THE EVIL SOUL WITHIN.'



Welcome! This, too, is myself!

'AS I GAZED INTO THE MIRROR, I REALISED THAT I HAD BECOME TWO PEOPLE: GOOD DR JEKYLL, AND SHAMELESS MR HYDE. JEKYLL HAD HIS MEDICAL TRAINING TO GUIDE HIS THOUGHTS AND ACTIONS. BUT HYDE WAS PURE EVIL - AND COMPLETELY OUT OF CONTROL!'



'DAY WAS FAST APPROACHING. I DARED NOT BE SEEN IN MY CHANGED SHAPE. SO I MIXED SOME MORE OF THE POTION, DRANK IT QUICKLY, AND TURNED BACK INTO SOLEMN, SERIOUS DR HENRY JEKYLL.'

Robert Louis Stevenson wrote *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* for an urgent reason – to make money. He had been working as a professional writer since he was 21 years old, and his books had won praise. But in 1885, aged 35, he still relied on gifts of money from his father to survive – and, as well as himself, he had a wife and a lively young stepson to support. So he was delighted when, in 1885, his editor at Longman, the powerful London publishing company, asked him to write a 'shilling shocker' (a cheap, exciting story) to sell at Christmas.

#### CHRISTMAS HORROR

The Christmas holiday was a time when many 19th-century readers liked to relax by their cosy family firesides with an easy-to-read story that would give them a safe-but-shocking thrill. Publishing horror tales at Christmas had been a favourite British tradition ever since the great success of Charles Dickens's ghost story *A Christmas Carol*, which first appeared in 1843. Long before then, the British reading public had enjoyed full-length horror novels such as *The Castle of Otranto* by Horace Walpole (published on Christmas Eve, 1764), *The Mysteries of Udolpho* by Anne Radcliffe (1794) and *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley (1818). Stevenson himself had published earlier 'shilling shockers' for Christmas: *The Body Snatcher* in 1884 and *Olalla* (*A Vampire Tale*) in 1885.

#### FICTION FOR THE MASSES

By the time Stevenson's Christmas stories were published, new printing and picture technology, such as rotary presses and steel engraving, made it quick, cheap and easy to print reading matter in large quantities. This meant that books were now more affordable in Britain than they had ever been before. More British people were able to read, too. Since the 1870s, primary education had been compulsory. This meant that ordinary people, as well as the wealthy, were taught to read and write, and a new mass market for cheap books, illustrated magazines and newspapers was created.

#### A PUBLISHING SENSATION

In fact, there were so many books planned for Christmas 1885 that the publishers held back *Jekyll and Hyde* until early the next year, 1886. It became an overnight sensation, selling 40,000 copies in just six weeks. Even Queen Victoria herself was said to have read it eagerly. Since then, Stevenson's 'shilling shocker' has been enjoyed, in different formats, by millions of people all round the world. The names of his two main characters, Jekyll and Hyde, have passed into the English language as a shorthand way of describing anyone, or anything, that has a double nature, with good and bad sides.

Stevenson claimed that the idea for the story came to him in a dream. His wife Fanny woke him up before the dream was over, fearing that he was being tormented by a terrifying

nightmare. Angrily, Stevenson complained, 'I was dreaming a fine bogie [monster] tale.' The original title was *Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* – without a 'the' at the beginning – which makes it sound like a sensational newspaper headline.

#### FACT AND FICTION

What inspired Stevenson to write *Jekyll and Hyde*? Years after Stevenson died, his family still claimed that the story came to him in a dream. This may be true, but scholars have also suggested that real-life events and discoveries may have excited Stevenson's imagination. Many of these were connected with Edinburgh, the capital city of Scotland. Stevenson spent the first half of his life there, and studied at Edinburgh's famous university, which had (and still has) a world-class medical school. Stevenson's family were respectable Edinburgh citizens, but he rebelled against the city's strict – and sometimes hypocritical – way of life.

Other ideas that may have inspired Stevenson included the new theory of evolution (the word was first used in 1852) and controversial theories about criminal behaviour. The theory of evolution suggested that humanity had gradually evolved (changed) from primitive, unthinking, uncontrolled animals to thoughtful, self-controlled people – an idea which many people found shocking and ridiculous. Some 19th-century scientists believed that traces of savage 'primitive' human

nature still survived inside the most 'civilised' humans.

Other scientists looked for medical reasons to explain why people behaved badly. They suggested that some habits or pleasures weakened a human's sense of good and bad. Others thought that criminals were a 'lower', less developed type of humanity and could be recognised by physical features such as the shape of the skull.

#### DR JEKYLL'S NAME

Although Jekyll is an unusual name, it is a real English surname. The most famous Jekyll in real life was the gardener Gertrude Jekyll (1843–1932); Stevenson was a friend of her brother, the Reverend Walter Jekyll. The name should really be pronounced 'JEE-kill', not 'JECK-ill'.



MR HYDE UNLOCKS THE MYSTERIOUS DOOR. A DRAWING BY EDMUND J. SULLIVAN PUBLISHED IN 1920.