

SYNOPSIS

Mr. Utterson, a London lawyer, is a friend of Dr. Jekyll and Richard Enfield is his distant kinsman, on one of their Sunday walks about London comes upon sinister, windowless, two-story wing of a house on a by street. Enfield recalls a horrible sight near the house that early morning a man who is hurrying down the street collides with a little girl, knocked her flat and calmly tramples over her body.

The ugly-looking fellow offers to pay damages to the child's family, goes into the sinister house and comes back with ten pounds in gold and a check bearing the signature of a most respected citizen. The name of that man who walks over the child is Hyde.

Jekyll gives up his regular practice to experiment with non-traditional medicine. Utterson is concerned because Jekyll has written a will that leaves his money to his new partner Mr. Hyde. Utterson has heard bad things of Hyde and disliked him at first sight. The lawyer thinks his friend is being blackmailed.

Afterward, Utterson finally intercepts a small, plainly dressed man who admits he is Hyde at the doorway of the sinister house.

The two stare at each other, and before entering the house Hyde gives the lawyer his address in Soho.

One day, the lawyer is asked to identify the body of a murdered man, Sir Danvers Carew, one of Utterson's clients. Hyde is suspected of the murder, but he has disappeared. Jekyll swears that he has not seen Hyde and has broken with him forever. The case remains unsolved and Jekyll becomes more sociable than he had been.

Inspection reveals that Hyde has disappeared from the Soho address, leaving nothing but a charred checkbook, and at the bank it is found that the several thousand pounds in Hyde's account is unclaimed.

One day, Utterson finds Lanyon, a man with death written on his face. He has a shock from which he does not expect to recover when he knows what Jekyll did. In less than a fortnight Lanyon is dead. The lawyer learns from Poole, Jekyll's butler, that the doctor has grown very silent and morose. He has appeared to have a burden on his mind, and he rarely leaves the laboratory.

On a Sunday walk with Enfield, Utterson sees Jekyll at the window with an infinite sadness of mien, like some disconsolate prisoner. Jekyll refuses to join the two for a walk. Suddenly his face takes an expression of such abject terror and despair that it seems to freeze the blood of the two friends below.

Suddenly, Jekyll locks himself into his laboratory, yelling to the servants through the door, directing them to gather chemicals for him. The servants recognize a change in his voice and think that their master has been murdered; another man has taken place in the lab. They call Utterson who breaks down the door. On the floor lies Hyde, who has killed himself with poison. Sadly, Utterson assumes Hyde returned and killed Jekyll, but the doctor's body is nowhere to be found.

He does find, however, a letter in which Jekyll explains his relationship to Hyde. Jekyll had sometimes indulged in debauches which, if discovered, could have ruined his reputation and of which he is ashamed. Pondering this split personality, he decides to find a way to separate his two beings. Jekyll creates a potion that releases his evil side, ~~Mr. Hyde~~. Hyde is shorter and smaller than Jekyll, having not had as much exercise.

For a while Jekyll enjoys his two bodies; he can do whatever he likes without fear of discovery. This pleasure is stunted when Hyde kills Carew in a nonsensical fit, and he resolves never to take the potion again. Hyde is now strong, however, and emerges whether Jekyll will have him or not. Indeed, Jekyll must use the potion to be rid of him if only for a moment. Jekyll knows that it is only by killing his body that Hyde's body, too, will die. Eventually, he died by committing suicide as the only way out.