

The

Strange

Case

of

Dr.
Jekyll

&

Mr.
Hyde

Robert Louis

Stevenson

The plot

- *Mr. Utterson hears about a strange and violent man called Edward Hyde, whose name is on the will of his friend Henry Jekyll.*
- *The lawyer investigates about mr. Hyde and meets him.*
- *Hyde murders a man and then disappears.*
- *Mr. Utterson suspects Hyde to threaten Dr. Jekyll to conceal himself and finds that the two have almost identical handwriting.*

The plot

- *Dr. Lanyon dies of a emotional shock which seems to be connected in some way to Dr. Jekyll.*
- *Jekyll's butler asks for Utterson's help to deal with a stranger who has broken into the locked laboratory and seems to have killed Jekyll.*
- *Edward Hyde commits suicide but Dr. Jekyll is nowhere found.*
- *Mr. Utterson reads three letters, one of them makes him the only heir of Jekyll's properties, and the other two explain the whole story, from the point of view of Lanyon and Jekyll/Hyde.*

Good & evil

“man is not truly one, but truly two”

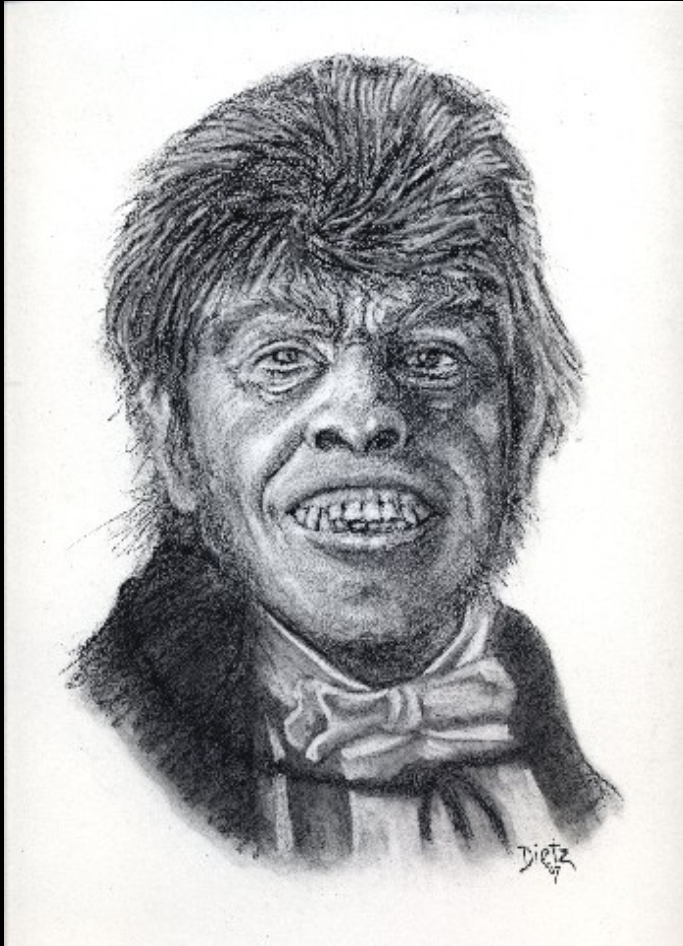
Jekyll tries to create a potion to separate the good side and the evil side but he only succeed in creating a drug which makes the evil side of him visible, and this takes the name of Edward Hyde.

This side gradually take over of Henry Jekyll, destroying him at the end.



Hyde: pure evil

- *Repulsively ugly and deformed*
- *small, shrunken*
- *hairy*



Physical aspect of Hyde is caused by his feral nature and the fact that Jekyll has repressed him for years.

The duality of Jekyll's house/laboratory

Aspect of the house:

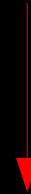
- *“a great air of wealth and comfort”*
- *respectable*
- *prosperous-looking*
- *pleasing*
- *faces one of the main streets of London*



Henry Jekyll

Aspect of the laboratory:

- *“a certain sinister block of building [...] which bore in every feature a mark of sordid negligence”*
- *decaying aspect*
- *faces a dark street*



Edward Hyde

Inner duality as social hypocrisy

inner conflict:

- *good/evil*

social conflict:

- *outward respectability / inward lust*

Henry Jekyll: well established in the community, and known for his decency and charitable works



people seen from outside, their behaviour is moderated

Edward Hyde: violent and cruel person, hairy as an savage animal, not belonging to the rational world



people seen from inside, spontaneously ferocious

Hyde as the primitive creature inside man

Another interpretation: man is not simply two, but is the foremost primitive creature bound by civilization, law and conscience.



Hyde described as an animal, but his deeds seems not chaotic but deliberately evil, he commits cruelties only for no reason except the joy of it.