



The strange case of DR. JEKYLL & MR. HYDE

R. Stevenson



LONDON 1886

ACT ONE SCENE ONE

Intro: Come in. Be careful. London 1886, the streets are very dangerous. Come in and stay together. If you stay together you will be safe. There have been some terrible murders in these streets recently. Five brutal killings this week. Stay together. I will go and find a policeman.

(Off stage we hear the murder of Sir Danvers Carew. It is a violent death. We hear cries, Hyde comes forward and suddenly...)

Utterson: Stop man, I say stop. Who are you? What is your name?

Mr. Hyde: Mr. Hyde is my name. Who do you think you are?

Utterson: My name is Utterson. Do you live on this street?

Mr. Hyde: I am going home. I live with Dr. Jekyll.

Utterson: I am a good friend of Dr. Jekyll's.

Mr. Hyde: Dr. Jekyll has no friends. *(Hyde strikes Utterson and proceeds to strangle him with a black and white scarf. At the point of death Hyde changes a little.)*

Mr. Hyde: Your name is Utterson? I remember now, he wants you to have this.”
(He throws down the will and leaves.)

Utterson: *(Choked.)* Who are you? Who are you?

TRANSITION:

Dora: *(At window with candle.)* Hello. Hello? Who's there? What was that? Hello?

OSCURO.



ACT ONE SCENE TWO

MORNING. DR. JEKYLL'S LABORATORY.

(Half eaten sandwich and milk on desk)

Dr. Jekyll: My head hurts. What did I do last night? Where did I go? I remember I crossed the bridge, I passed the hospital and walked through the park. That's all I can remember.

Mr. Hyde: You killed. You smashed the brains of Sir Danvers Carew. That pompous old gentleman. Not the first time either. Six times now, six. And you enjoyed it, to hear them scream and scream and scream. Smell the blood.
(He raises his hands to his face.) (Bell rings.)

Dr. Jekyll: My notes. *(He goes to his notes and writes.)* Of course its the phosphate oxidate trinitrate acid. Yes, I must take some Moron's. It's the Moron's that stabilizes the procedure!!

(ENTER DORA)

Dora: Good morning Dr. Jekyll sir. I have your tea.

Dr. Jekyll: Thank you Dora. Put it on the table please.

Dora: What a mess. Just look at this mess sir. And you didn't eat your sandwich sir.

Dr. Jekyll: No.

Dora: And you didn't go to bed sir.

Dr. Jekyll: No I was working hard last night. *(He goes to the cabinet.)*

(Dora tries to hide a sniff.)

Dr. Jekyll: Are you alright Dora? What is the matter?

Dora: It's nothing thank you sir. It's just these terrible murders. I'm very frightened sir.

Dr. Jekyll: Yes.

Dora: Last night Sir Danvers Carew was killed. *(Cries)* It is in the newspaper this morning. He was such a good man and such a help in the church. Poor man!

Dr. Jekyll: *(Reads)* "Sir Danvers Carew found dead in London last night. Short hairy man in striped scarf suspected. Horrid, strange circumstances." *(Mr. Hyde laughs.)*

Dora: Sir??

Dr. Jekyll: You must leave now. Go, go quickly.



- Dora:** A Mrs. Seek is waiting to see you sir.
Dr. Jekyll: So early in the morning?
Dora: Yes sir. She says it is important.
Dr. Jekyll: Very well, I will see her.
Dora: And this note from Mr. Utterson also came, he also wants to talk with you this morning.
Dr. Jekyll: Thank you Dora. I will come in five minutes. Please leave now, and remember, from now on you must never enter my laboratory again.

(Dora leaves, and tidies away the sandwich, tea, hat and scarf.)

- Dr. Jekyll:** I don't remember everything but I know, inside, that last night I enjoyed myself. I remember the pain. A feeling that my bones, my very bones were crushing against themselves. And a feeling of terrible sickness deep down in my stomach. Like nothing I have ever felt before. I remember feeling strange and horrible, I didn't care. I felt strong, so strong that no law, no person, no ethic would stop me doing what I wanted. Anything I wanted, and I wanted to hurt people. A violence of the spirit and soul that I absolutely loved. It was like being somebody completely different, somebody stronger, faster and much more evil. Evil, and with no control. I realise that I am two...and I rather like my other self...I didn't know he existed. Of course he is welcome because it is *He* I am looking for. But I must be able to control him, that is what is most important. If I can control this ape inside of me, if I can find the correct formula then I can eliminate and stabilise, at will, the evil in me. I do rather like my evil side though.

(He spills the Moron's.)

I must be more careful.

(OSCURO)

ACT ONE SCENE THREE

MORNING. DR. JEKYLL'S SITTING ROOM.

(Sitting impatiently, we see Mrs. Seek.)

(ENTER DR JEKYLL)

- Dr. Jekyll:** Good morning Mrs. Seek.
Mrs. Seek: Good morning. I have been waiting ten minutes.
Dr. Jekyll: Excuse me. I was shaving. It's very early.
Mrs. Seek: Yes it is. But not for some, some people have been up all night. I bet you have been up all night working in that laboratory.



Dr. Jekyll: No actually, I've been...
Mrs. Seek: Out? !!!
Dr. Jekyll: It's very early, Mrs Seek.
Mrs. Seek: Society never sleeps, Dr Jekyll. Society never sleeps and always talks. Have you seen the newspaper?
Dr. Jekyll: **(Lies.)** No, not yet.
Mrs. Seek: "Thames horror shocks London.
Body found in pool of blood.
Well known politician found dead.
Hideous, cruel death and murder.
Broken cane and wallet found next to body.
Terrible strange circumstances.
Sir Danvers Carew found dead in London last night.
Short hairy man in striped scarf suspected.
Horrid strange circumstances."
Poor Sir Danvers Carew. Poor, poor Danvers.

(DR JEKYLL MOVES DOWNSTAGE AGHAST)

Dr. Jekyll: Terrible. Terrible news.
Mrs. Seek: The pity is, Dr Jekyll, or may I call you Henry? Because now we are going to be friends... the pity is Henry,
Dr. Jekyll: Excuse me but I really must continue with my work.
Mrs. Seek: Your work, yes. Now, Dr Jekyll, Henry, listen to me.....a man of your position, such an eminent and highly respected scientist...
Dr. Jekyll: Thank you for the visit but I must continue with my work.
(Becoming desperate.) Excuse me...Excuse me but I really must...
Mrs. Seek: You have seen the newspaper. The murder happened at twelve o'clock. It says a young maid saw everything.
Dr. Jekyll: Saw everything? And has the murderer been recognised?
Mrs. Seek: Yes. It says a short, hairy man with a long coat, felt hat and striped scarf, was seen running away from the place of the murder. Is Mr Hyde at home?
Dr. Jekyll: Mr Hyde? What do you mean, Mr Hyde?
Mrs. Seek: Your friend, Mr Hyde.
Dr. Jekyll: My friend, Mr Hyde?
Mrs. Seek: Stop repeating what I say. Yes, Mr Hyde. Yes. Your friend, Mr Hyde. Your friend, Mr Hyde, who has a long coat, felt hat and striped scarf. Your friend, short, hairy Mr Hyde. *(Drinks gin.)*
Dr. Jekyll: Yes. How do you know him?
Mrs. Seek: I saw him enter your house, with a key, two weeks ago.
Dr. Jekyll: Really. Yes. He sometimes visits.



- Mrs. Seek:** Did he visit last night?
- Dr. Jekyll:** No, no. No, absolutely not.
- Mrs. Seek:** Because if he did, I am sure the police would be very interested indeed ...and if the police found Mr Hyde and if he was involved with the murder of poor Sir Danvers Carew...
- Dr. Jekyll:** I'm sure that it is not possible. I have not seen my friend Mr Hyde for some weeks now. He was not here last night. I am sure that he is not at all involved in the murders.
- Mrs. Seek:** Murders? *(Pause)* I hope not. Because if so...it's curtains for Mr Hyde. Yes.... curtains!
- Dr. Jekyll:** Will you tell the police?
- Mrs. Seek:** Perhaps.
- Dr. Jekyll:** What will you tell the police?
- Mrs. Seek:** That I saw Mr Hyde here last nightor nothing.
- Dr. Jekyll:** Nothing?
- Mrs. Seek:** Nothing. If ...you understand that London is a very expensive city in which to live. I wonder if I have money for my cab.
- Dr. Jekyll:** Allow me.
- Mrs. Seek:** Five pounds! How generous. I'm sure we are going to understand each other perfectly. Do think about our conversation. I shall visit again soon.
- Dr. Jekyll:** Of course. Please excuse me. I must leave now. Dora will see you out. *(Leaves.)*
- Mrs. Seek:** This has been a very profitable visit indeed. You have seen the newspapers. *(She reads the headlines.)* It seems clear to me that Dr. Jekyll has a friend who he wants to protect. That is good for me. I'm going to make quite a lot of money it seems.

(OSCURO)

ACT ONE SCENE FOUR

MR. UTTERSON'S HOUSE.

(Mr. Utterson, Dr Jekyll's lawyer, sits at a table, reading.)

- Utterson:** I don't understand it. I don't like it. It doesn't make sense. This is a very strange testament. Do you recognise it?
- Dr. Jekyll:** Yes. It is my hand writing. I don't remember now, but I must have given it to Mr. Hyde, to give to you.
- Utterson:** Last night a monstrous fiend, a horrible man handed me this document in the street. He said his name was Hyde. How do you know him? Henry?
- Dr. Jekyll:** Oh, he is a friend.



- Utterson:** *(reads)* "Dr Jekyll's Will: "Disappearance or unexplained absence for any period exceeding three calendar months...all possessions to pass to my friend and benefactor Mr Edward Hyde."
Why, why, why? Why "disappearance or unexplained absence?" I don't like it. I don't like your friend Henry. I saw Mr Hyde last night...A horrible man. He attacked me I'm sure he wanted to kill me until he recognised my name. Who is he Henry?
- Dr. Jekyll:** Mr. Hyde? Mr Hyde is a friend of mine, he is helping me in my experiments.
- Utterson:** I don't like the man. You must explain to me why you want to leave him all your money...if you disappear.
- Dr. Jekyll:** I can't explain. One day you will know everything. But not yet. I can't explain yet. You must promise to help Mr Hyde and give him everything if anything ever happens to me. Promise. You must promise.
- Utterson:** I promise, but I'm not happy about it.
- Dr. Jekyll:** Thank you friend..., and let's not talk about this any more.
- Utterson:** I wish I could but there have been too many terrible, strange things happening in the streets of London recently. I have been asked to investigate the murder of Sir Danvers Carew. And I will discover the murderer, you know I will.
- Dr. Jekyll:** I am sure you will.
- Utterson:** I saw him, your friend, in the street on the night of the murder. He smelt of alcohol.

(OSCURO)

TRANSITION

- Dora:** Come over here now? Didn't I tell you it was dangerous out here in the streets of London? Just last night there was another murder, near here. I heard some screams that night. And I heard somebody come in the back door. Dr. Jekyll seems strange. There's something funny about the Doctor. I don't like it. I don't like it at all. Its almost eleven o'clock. I'm going to bed.

ACT ONE SCENE FIVE

DR. LANYON'S STUDY. NIGHT.

(A clock strikes 11 o'clock.)

(Sleeping, Dr Lanyon is woken by the bells, he pees. There is a tap on the window.)

- Dr. Lanyon:** Who is it? Who is there?
- Dr. Jekyll:** Its me, Dr Jekyll. I have come for more Moron's.
- Dr. Lanyon:** More Moron's? But I gave you some last week, why do you need more?
- Dr. Jekyll:** It wasn't enough. I want more. I need more. I need it now. Its important in my experiments.



Dr. Lanyon: What for, what for? Why? Tell me.

Dr. Jekyll: I cannot explain exactly how, but I am learning how to change mans perceptions of good and evil. When I have it controlled my studies it will be of immense importance for mankind. I will be able to control evil, and eliminate it, chemically. But I seem to need more Morons.

(Dr. Lanyon gives him more Morons.)

Good. Dr Lanyon do you have a flask? *(He prepares a solution, looks satisfied and speaks to Dr. Lanyon.)* And now Dr. Lanyon, I have something to show you. Something that will change your life, forever. Something you will not believe. You will be amazed. But you must promise to keep this secret.

Dr. Lanyon: I will have an explanation.

Dr. Jekyll: Watch! *(He drinks the potion.)*

Dr. Lanyon: Oh God. Oh God. Oh God. Horrible. Horrible.

ACT ONE SCENE SIX

DR. JEKYLL'S SALON. ABOUT FIVE IN THE AFTERNOON.

Dora: *(She sings, tidies the room, and finds a briefcase.)*

(ENTER DR. JEKYLL.)

Dr. Jekyll: That is enough, thank you.

Dora: Your cocktail is on the table sir.

(DORA LEAVES.)

(ENTER UTTERSON.)

Utterson: Its very early.

Dr. Jekyll: Would you like one?

Utterson: Very well, just a small one.

(Dr. Jekyll rings bell.)

(ENTER DORA.)

Dr. Jekyll: Ah Dora, Bring Mr. Utterson a cocktail please.

(DORA LEAVES.)

Utterson: I received a letter this morning from Dr. Lanyon and I came immediately to speak with you. I am worried about him, his letter was crazed! I understand that Mr. Hyde visited him last night. I don't like your friend. You know I am investigating the murder of Sir Danvers.

Dr. Jekyll: Yes. But please, not again.



Utterson: This cane and wallet were found next to his body and I suspect them to be yours.
(Pause.)

Dr. Jekyll: Really?

Utterson: Absolutely and indubitably.

(ENTER DORA.)

Dora: Your cocktail sir. *(They drink.)*

Dr. Jekyll: Thank you. Bring me another.

Dora: Yes sir.

(DORA LEAVES.)

Dr. Jekyll: My cane, my wallet. God.

Utterson: The cane was used to crush his skull.

Dr. Jekyll: My God.

Utterson: Can you explain how they came to be next to the body of Sir Danvers?

Dr. Jekyll: No. Really I cannot.

Utterson: I suspect your friend Mr Hyde stole them from you.(Pause) If he is the murderer they will hang him.

(DORA ENTERS.)

Dora: Your cocktail Dr. Jekyll sir.

Dr. Jekyll: Thank you.

Utterson: Dora, was Mr Hyde here last night?

Dora: Yes sir, I think he was. He arrived, I think, at twelve o'clock at night and entered Dr. Jekyll's study with his key.

Dr. Jekyll: Thank you Dora.

Dora: I have often seen him. He often comes. As instructed I did not speak to Mr Hyde and I went to bed. This morning he was not here.

Dr. Jekyll: Thank you Dora.

Dora: I did however find this.

Utterson: No, oh no. My God. Oh no.

Dr. Jekyll: What is it?

Utterson: It is Sir Danvers' briefcase.

Dora: Dead Sir Danvers.

Dr. Jekyll: Thank you Dora.

Utterson: I have often seen him with it. How did it get here I wonder? I think we should have a look in your study, Jekyll.

Dr. Jekyll: No. No. You must never enter my study. Never. Do you hear me? Never.



Dora: No sir. Never.

Utterson: Dora, you saw him arrive at twelve o' clock, but did you see him leave?

Dora: I went to bed sir, as I said.

Utterson: I suspect Mr. Hyde is hiding in your study.

Dr. Jekyll: No. This morning I was alone in my study. I called for breakfast this morning alone in my study. Didn't I?

Dora: Yes sir. One egg, one slice of toast and a cup of coffee. I left it outside on the table. As instructed I never go inside Dr Jekyll's study.

Utterson: This is very strange. Very, very strange.

Dr. Jekyll: Thank you Dora. Bring Mr. Utterson another cocktail please, and one for me.

Dora: Yes sir. *(Bell rings.)*

(DORA LEAVES.)

Dr. Jekyll: That will be Mrs. Seek, she said she was going to call. Dora will let her in. Utterson I must ask you something very important, a very important favour. Help me...protect Mr Hyde. He perhaps is guilty of a terrible murder, a crime too horrible to mention, but I must protect him. I cannot explain. I must protect him, you must help me...protect myself. Utterson I will make sure nobody ever sees him again. He is gone, forever. He is gone. He is too dangerous. People suspect him. Mrs. Seek suspects him. But I cannot let Mrs. Seek talk. I must keep her quiet. She cannot talk to the police.

(ENTER MRS. SEEK.)

Utterson: How are you going to do that?

Dr. Jekyll: By paying her a lot of money. It's the only way. I must keep the police away.

Utterson: Then pay her. Pay her.

Mrs. Seek: Very well said. That is exactly what you should do. You are a good friend to Dr. Jekyll, Mr. Utterson. Very good advice indeed.

Utterson: Yes well. I shall leave you now. Good day Mrs. Seek. Good day Henry. *(Leaves.)*

Mrs. Seek: So, to business. We have to talk about money. Where is my list? I have a little list, in my bag here. As I mentioned before, life in London is very expensive. I have a house to run. My daughter Julie is going to get married. The honeymoon, the country house. Are you listening to me? The new London apartment. Let me see, what else? How much are you going to pay me?

Mr. Hyde: Mrs. Seek I am not prepared to pay you anything.

Mrs. Seek: That is rather foolish. Think, think. I know your secret about your friend. Mr. Utterson suspects, even your servant Dora suspects. Be sensible.

(Dr. Jekyll / Mr. Hyde murders Mrs. Seek.)



Dr. Jekyll: *(Calls.)* Dora, Dora. Fetch Dr. Lanyon. I'm not well. I need his help. Fetch him. Don't come in, but leave now. Go and get Dr. Lanyon. Tell him its urgent.

ACT TWO SCENE ONE

DR LANYON'S HOUSE.

Dr. Lanyon: *(Writing frantically.)* Oh God. No. Oh God. It's horrible. I know Dr. Jekylls secret. His experiments are too dangerous and he must stop. I fear he cannot and no good end will come of it. That is why I have put everything in this letter for Mr. Utterson. I fear for my life and I hope I never see that terrible man again, but he knows where I live. *(A bell rings.)* Who's there?

Dora: It's me Dora. I've come from Dr. Jekyll. He needs you sir. I'm very worried about him sir. Please come quickly.

Dr. Lanyon: I will never speak to Dr. Jekyll again.

Dora: Please come sir!

Dr. Lanyon: No Dora. Now I want you to take this to Mr. Utterson. Here. *(He hands over a sealed envelope.)* Give it to him but tell him it must not, must not be opened until I am dead. Do you hear me?

Dora: Yes sir, but Dr. Jekyll sir!

Dr. Lanyon: Jekyll! Jekyll is an evil and foolish man. Do you hear me, evil and foolish. He has terrible secrets, terrible experiments...terrible secrets.

Dora He scares me at times.....

Dr. Lanyon: Stay away from Dr Henry Jekyll. I cannot explain. I must keep his terrible secret. I promised. But the secret is in the letter. It cannot be opened until I die. Not before.

Dora: Yes sir..

Dr. Lanyon: Now go quickly to Mr. Utterson, he will know what to do.

(DORA LEAVES.)

(Lanyon puts away his pen and goes to bed, the door is left open. Hyde enters.)

Dr. Lanyon: You again, what do you want now?

Mr. Hyde: Another jar of phosphate oxidate trinitate acid.

Dr. Lanyon: I don't think I have any. Let me have a look in the back room.

Mr. Hyde: Quickly!

Dr. Lanyon: I'm sorry, but you took the last jar, the last time you were here. I know who you are and you must stop what you are doing. I cannot help you.



Mr. Hyde: But its important. You are lying. I warn you, do not lie to me. Where can I find some?

Dr. Lanyon: In London these days? Nowhere.

Mr. Hyde: God! You must have some. I need it. You must help me. Just a little will be enough.

Dr. Lanyon: I cannot and I will not help you.

(Mr. Hyde looks everywhere for the Moron's, doesn't find any, smothers and shoots Dr. Lanyon in his bed.)

Dr. Jekyll: Oh my God! What have I done?

Mr. Hyde: Quiet you coward.

Dr. Jekyll: Who am I? A man split in two. One side of me cannot tolerate this horror. The other side loves it. And he must be stopped. I cannot and must not continue because he is getting stronger...I am no longer in any control. I have lost my identity. It is time to end this horror.

ACT TWO SCENE TWO

DR. JEKYLL'S SALON. A LITTLE LATER.

(Dora telephones Mr. Utterson.)

Dora: Operator, operator. Whitechapel 743 please. Its urgent. Hello? Mr. Utterson! Mr. Utterson! Come quickly, please sir. Come quickly. I'm very worried.

Utterson: (What is it my dear? What has happened? What is wrong?)

Dora: I don't know what to do. Dr. Lanyon told me to find you. You must come quickly sir. I think he needs your help. I heard shouting and crashing and Im very worried, he said he needs some help. I think he was with Mrs. Seek.

Utterson: (Who Dora?)

Dora: Dr. Jekyll. I think its his experiments. He told me to get Dr. Lanyon but he told me to get you. Please hurry sir. He's been asking for phosphate oxidate trinitrate acid, sir. You don't know what a state he gets into when he needs phosphate oxidate trinitrate acid sir. And he was drinking.

Utterson: (And where is Dr. Jekyll?)

Dora: He is at home, I think, but I also saw his friend, Mr. Hyde.

Utterson: (Where?)

Dora: In the street, near Dr. Lanyons apartment. And Dr. Lanyon gave me a letter for you, and said that you mustn't open it until he wasdead.



Utterson. (Go to your room and stay there. I am coming immediately. Be brave, I will get to the bottom of this.)

Dora: Yes sir. Please come quickly.

(DORA LEAVES.)

ACT TWO SCENE THREE

DR. JEKYLL'S LABORATORY.

DR JEKYLL IS PREPARING A SOLUTION TO INJECT INTO HIS VEINS.

Dr. Jekyll: A grinding in the bones, deadly nausea, a horror of the spirit that cannot be exceeded at the hour of birth or death... I have lost my identity beyond redemption.... *(Jekyll dies.)*

(ENTER UTTERSON.) *(He enters the laboratory to find Dr. Jekyll dead.)*

(On the floor, a letter.)

Utterson: Oh my God, my God. Dr. Jekyll? Dr. Jekyll.

Dora: *(Screams off stage.)*

(ENTER DORA.) *(Sobbing.)* Mrs. Seek is dead sir.

Utterson: *(After reading both letters.)* These two letters explain everything. Dr. Jekyll's terrible discovery tormented him. The powers of Hyde, it seems, grew stronger as Jekyll became weaker. His last jar of phosphate oxidate trinitrate acid was not the best. It was the last. Dr Lanyon knew his secret but could do nothing to help. Poor Dr Jekyll. Now I know how he suffered, I find it in my heart to pity him.

THE END