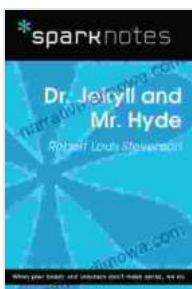


Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde SparkNotes Literature Guide: Unraveling the Enigma of Duality

Robert Louis Stevenson's enigmatic novella, *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, has captivated readers for over a century with its exploration of the duality of human nature. The tale of a respected physician who transforms into a monstrous alter ego has become an enduring classic, inspiring countless adaptations and interpretations. Our SparkNotes Literature Guide provides an in-depth exploration of this beloved work, guiding you through its complex themes, characters, and symbolism.

The Journey into Darkness

Dr. Henry Jekyll is a brilliant scientist obsessed with unlocking the secrets of human nature. Driven by a desire to separate his good and evil impulses, he concocts a transformative potion. With each dose, he becomes the antithesis of his former self, the grotesque and sinister Mr. Hyde.



Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde (SparkNotes Literature Guide) (SparkNotes Literature Guide Series) by Universal Politics

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

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File size : 203 KB
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Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 72 pages
Screen Reader : Supported



Through these transformations, Stevenson delves into the depths of human duality. Jekyll's experiment is a mirror held up to society, reflecting the hidden desires and vices that lurk within us all. As Hyde's evil impulses grow, Jekyll grapples with the consequences of his relentless pursuit of knowledge.

The Duality of Humanity

The central theme of *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* is the inherent duality of human nature. Jekyll represents the civilized and respectable façade we present to society, while Hyde embodies our darker, primal instincts. Their opposing characteristics create a fascinating tension, forcing us to question the boundaries between good and evil.

Stevenson's exploration of this duality is both intriguing and unsettling. He suggests that within each of us lies a potential for both great virtue and heinous wickedness. The novella challenges rigid notions of morality, revealing the fragile balance that exists between our civilized and savage selves.

The Gothic Elements

Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde is a quintessential Gothic tale, employing elements of the genre to create a haunting atmosphere. The shadowy streets of London, the eerie transformations, and the omnipresent sense of doom all contribute to the novella's unsettling tone.

These Gothic elements serve to amplify the psychological horror at the core of the story. Jekyll's descent into madness is mirrored by the increasingly grotesque and malevolent nature of Hyde. The novella's

Gothic atmosphere intensifies the themes of duality and the struggle between good and evil.

The Major Characters

Dr. Henry Jekyll: A brilliant scientist driven by his desire to separate his good and evil impulses. As his transformations into Hyde become more frequent, Jekyll struggles to maintain control over his monstrous alter ego.

Mr. Edward Hyde: The embodiment of Jekyll's repressed evil impulses. Hyde is a grotesque and sinister figure, capable of unspeakable violence. His actions reveal the dark potential that lurks beneath the surface of civilized society.

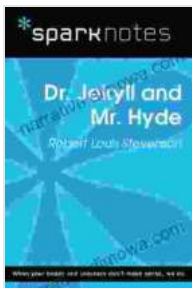
Utterson: Jekyll's loyal friend and lawyer. Utterson investigates the strange connection between Jekyll and Hyde and witnesses the horrifying consequences of Jekyll's experiment.

Lanyon: Jekyll's former colleague and friend. Lanyon is skeptical of Jekyll's claims and becomes horrified after witnessing the transformation into Hyde. His death serves as a testament to the destructive power of Jekyll's experiment.

Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde is a masterpiece of Gothic literature, exploring the complex and often contradictory nature of humanity. Through the tragic tale of Jekyll and Hyde, Stevenson challenges societal norms, questions the boundaries of good and evil, and reveals the fragile balance that exists between our civilized and savage selves.

Our SparkNotes Literature Guide provides a comprehensive analysis of this timeless classic, offering insightful commentary, detailed character profiles, and thought-provoking discussion questions. Enhance your understanding and appreciation of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde with our essential study companion.

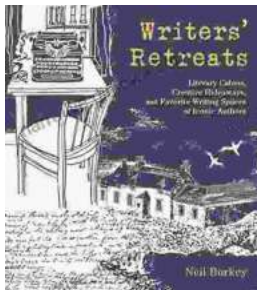
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