

Chapter eight ~ 'The Last Night.'

Poole visits Utterson late one night after dinner. He appears increasingly agitated, explaining that he believes there has been some 'foul play' regarding Dr Jekyll; he brings Utterson to his master's residence. The streets are empty and it appears cold, dark and windy (this gives Utterson a premonition of disaster). When they reach the house, he sees servants full of fear gathered in the main hall. Poole brings Utterson to the door of the laboratory and calls inside. He exclaims that Utterson has come for a visit, and a voice responds, that sounds nothing of Jekyll's, telling Poole that he cannot receive a visitor. Both men retreat to the kitchen where Poole strongly insists that the voice they heard does not belong to his master. Utterson finds it strange how a murderer would say in the lab if they had killed Jekyll instead of simply running away. Poole mentions how this voice has stated commands to go on trips to the chemists and seems increasingly desperate for an ingredient that no drugstore in London will sell. Utterson is still hopeful and asks whether the notes Poole has received are in Jekyll's hand, but Poole then reveals that he has seen the person inside the lab when he came out briefly to search for something. He said that the man looked nothing like Jekyll. Utterson suggests that Jekyll may have a disease that changes his voice and deforms his facial features, making them uniquely unrecognizable, but Poole declares that the person he saw was smaller than his master—and looked, like none other than Edward Hyde. Upon hearing Poole's words, Utterson suggests that he and Poole should break entry into the laboratory. He sends two servants around the block to the other door, (the one that Enfield sees Hyde using during his story at the beginning of the novel). Then, armed with a fire poker and an axe, both Utterson and Poole return to the inside door. Utterson calls inside, demanding entrance. The voice begs for Utterson to have mercy and to leave him alone. The lawyer recognizes this voice as Hyde's and orders Poole to smash down the door anyway. The two men find Hyde's body lying on the floor, a crushed vial in his hand. He appears to have poisoned himself. Utterson notices that Hyde is wearing a suit that belongs to Jekyll and that it is much too big to fit his much smaller frame. They search the entire lab, including as the surgeon's theatre below and the other rooms of the building, but they find no trace of Jekyll or a corpse. They note a large mirror and think it is strange to find such an item in a scientific lab. Then, on Jekyll's table, they find an envelope addressed to Utterson that holds three items. The first is a will, a lot like the previous one, except that it replaces Edward Hyde's name with Utterson's. The second is a note to Utterson, with today's date on it. Based upon this piece of evidence, Utterson concludes that Jekyll is still alive—and wonders if Hyde really died by suicide or if Jekyll killed him. This note demands Utterson to go home immediately and read the letter that Lanyon gave him earlier. It adds that if he wishes to learn more, he can read the confession of "Your worthy and unhappy friend, Henry Jekyll." Utterson takes the third item from the envelope and promises Poole that he will return that night and send for the police. He heads back to his office to read through Lanyon's letter and the remaining contents of the sealed packet.