

broader societal tendency to bury unpleasant truths. Stevenson critiques this culture of concealment by showing that the more truth is hidden, the more dangerous it becomes when finally revealed.

In conclusion, Stevenson crafts *Jekyll and Hyde* not merely as a gothic horror story, but as a searing critique of Victorian society — a world governed by appearances, crippled by repression, and haunted by the parts of itself it refuses to acknowledge. Through the characters of Utterson, Lanyon, and Jekyll, and themes like duality, secrecy, and violence, Stevenson exposes the instability of identity and the psychological consequences of denying our darker selves. The novel's moral warning is clear: when reputation is valued more than reality, destruction inevitably follows.

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