

Jekyll and Hyde – critical perspectives

"*Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* belongs to everyone who has ever referred to themselves in the third person, or cursed their own "split personality", or praised their "better nature". James Campbell, *The Guardian*

"The message of the novel is "God give me strength to lead a double life"; a plea to be in two places at once, not necessarily legitimately, without the inconvenience of a guilty conscience". (Hugo Williams)

"The point of the story is that Dr Jekyll "would like to indulge in all sort of sexual excess and debauchery". Hyde, his hidden self, was brought into existence to give him license to do so." (Rouben Mamoulian)

"The novel needs to be looked at in the context of its setting of Victorian London. Stevenson seems to make a comment not only about the dualism present in every individual but also in society as a whole" (S.M Singh)

"At another level, it is a critique on the hypocrisy and double standards of the society" (S.M Singh)

"The primary difference between a psychological case-study and a detective case involves the element of suspense" (Richard Scholar)

"Jekyll and Hyde appeared to be written in part to critique its very readers for the conformity and secrecy each person engulfs himself in" (Steven Arata)

"Society receives a metaphorical stabbing as well in Stevenson's novella, as the views of the gentleman indirectly refer to a figurative mask that every fine man wears to hide his Hyde" (Kevin Mills)