

# DR. JEKYLL *and* MR. HYDE

Original by Robert Louis Stevenson

Retold by Pauline Francis



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# *Introduction*

Robert Louis Stevenson was born in 1850, in Edinburgh, Scotland. After studying law at Edinburgh University, he decided to earn his living as a writer. Unfortunately, he became ill with tuberculosis, a disease of the lungs, and he had to travel to warmer countries to improve his health. However, he did manage to earn some money by writing about his travels.

In 1880, Stevenson married Fanny Osborne, and, a year later, wrote *Treasure Island* for her young son. In 1886, *Kidnapped* was published. Both these books were popular but they did not make much money. So, in the same year, 1886, Stevenson wrote *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*. This was the story that made him well known and earned him more money because it was bought by adults.

Robert Louis Stevenson dreamed most of this story when he was ill and he wrote it down in only three days. It was Fanny who persuaded her husband to re-write it, changing it from a horror story into a serious story about good and evil.

*The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* tells us that human beings have both good and evil in their nature. They struggle all the time to keep the evil away as well as fearing that this evil will dominate them in the end.