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## Green Tea

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J. Sheridan LeFanu

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## Green Tea J. Sheridan Le Fanu

Based on the psychological complexities of human mind, the work is pervaded by a mysterious aura. A drink opens the inner eye of the protagonist. What follows is a mind-boggling tale of eeriness and reality. Engrossing!

## Green Tea Details

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Author : J. Sheridan Le Fanu

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## **From Reader Review Green Tea for online ebook**

### **U?ur K?l?nç says**

I've had read Turkish version before and now this. It is Victorian, it is gothic and it is eerie! Now imagine reading this in 1800's.

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### **Michael Arnold says**

A really fun little story, you can see the influence of Le Fanu on Lovecraft and M.R. James!

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### **Davonna Juroe says**

Sometimes bad things happen to good people. Especially, those who are men of the cloth and study religious metaphysics of the ancients while drinking too much green tea.

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### **Peter says**

If this was 1872 one can imagine how disturbing this would be, however in these days of television and other mass media its impact has been reduced to nothing. This situation seems to be happening more and more frequently when looking at the reviews, people want a constant in your face, (pun intended if you have read this!) everything revealed and no imagination spared.

When I was about ten years old I was allowed to watch the odd late night horror and going to bed no problem, but give me one of my mums books on ghost stories and I would be waking up frequently for weeks.

A solid scare for the "VICTORIAN" non tv generation.

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### **Quirkyreader says**

No matter how many times I read this story, it is still a good creeper.

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### **Katie Lumsden says**

A very enjoyable short story, nicely blending the Gothic and science.

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## **Sam Quixote says**

A clergyman drinks green tea, inadvertently opens his “third eye” and starts seeing a small monkey with glowing red eyes (the Devil, it’s implied). And that’s Green Tea by J. Sheridan Le Fanu! Absolute rubbish.

It’s written in a plodding, dreary Victorian style which you can’t help but notice given how little actual story there is. I couldn’t believe that all there was was some dull clergyman wiggling out over hallucinations! I guess the subtext might be the author’s xenophobia/fascination about the East (green tea is drunk a lot in countries like Japan)? But what the hell, did Le Fanu think Japanese people wander about seeing Satan monkeys everywhere?!

Green Tea is garbage Victorian “horror” that’s not even remotely interesting – don’t bother. Le Fanu’s lesbian vampire novella Carmilla is a much better read instead.

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## **Elsa says**

Un caso del doctor Hesselius, quien recuerda un poco a Sherlock Holmes.

Buena historia pero predecible desde el inicio.

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## **Duane says**

Mr. Jennings sees....something...., something that nobody else sees, something unusual and unnerving, something that eventually becomes a horror that may destroy him. Is it real or is it imagined? Or is it just the result of drinking too much "Green Tea"?

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## **Yuni Amir says**

I'll think twice before I drink my green tea now.

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## **Paloma says**

A short, gothic, Victorian, ghost story. An interesting read though I would have liked a little more in-depth in the psychology of Mr Jennings. The plot is simple: a doctor -Hesselius- meets Reverend Jennings which seems a good, sensible man and yet hides something. For months he has been suffering fits or crisis which have led him away from his parish. Shortly, we find out the reason: he is being tormented by a devil who takes the form of a monkey. Mr Jennings trusts Dr Hesselius with his story and torment, as a last resort to find a possible cure for his maladie.

For me, the scariest part was not the apparition itself -though the tale includes all the known elements of horror (old houses in England, a ghostly apparition which torments the character, old manuscripts on spirits and the other world)- but the constant torment from the mind. The devil creature could easily be nothing but

our thoughts and that dreadful feeling -when one feels worried about something- of not knowing how to solve things.

At the end, this short-story has an opening ending -was it truly a demoniac apparition or simply, the worries of a troubled mind, prone to depression? Is up to the reader to decide. Though this is purely a personal preference, I like stories that elaborate a bit more on the ghost story. Unless it is crazy scary -I think of the ending of *The Woman in Black*, by Susan Hill- I felt the story lacked \*something\* to close the circle.

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## **Katerina says**

4.25

WOWWWWWW. Can I just say: this was engrossing AF. Fascinating from the literary, medical/scientific and theological senses.

### LITERARY

This was sooo reminiscent of *Jekyll and Hyde* - in all the best ways! The structure, the characters, the messages and the rabid thirst for further research! I've now been delving into Victorian suicide, medical hubris, metaphysics, hallucinations and autopsies - FASCINATING STUFF, I tell you. Absolutely fascinating. These are the best kinds of stories. I have no doubt of that. It was all so simple, really. But the story was about so much more than its words, it's 50 or so pages. The first person was ON POINT! I felt so much for poor Mr Jennings! And some of the passages and sentences! This got me for some reason:

"The silence, too, was utter; not a distant wheel, or bark, or whistle from without; and within the depressing stillness of an invalid bachelor's house."

Like dayyyyyum. And there were a lot more, but I'll need to find them again. All the applause.

### MEDICAL/SCIENTIFIC AND THEOLOGICAL

Just how it perfectly toed the line between the supernatural/theistic and the material/scientific! In the end, Dr Hesselius offered such a simplistic, detached and rather obstinate explanation for Jennings' condition. He was so entrenched in science and reason on the subject of something so 'other', so fictional (I mean, a monkey? Really?) and the more logical among us would likely side with this conclusion. But, of course, more theistic readers or dreamers would take to the fantastic/supernatural elements, those who truly believe that demons exist and that there are spirits and forces unseen, etc. Gah, it's such a perfect story for debate.

I myself would avoid advocating either side, however. What I really got out of the story was, as I mentioned, a complete captivation with the human mind. And in such matters I don't think we can be wholly scientific and wholly theistic. Humans are such great enigmas - the greatest of all, perhaps. We believe what we believe. Not what we see OR what we can't. The understanding is obviously juvenile because I don't know shit about these concepts REALLY and there's a lot more that I've realised too, but there would be far too much to write down in the way that I want to. Another day.

Bottom line: fuck yes to this story.

Need to get on to *In A Glass Darkly*, like, ASAP.

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## **Radwa says**

The part where Jennings tells of his peculiar incident is the only interesting part of this story.

The writings style was definitely not my type, and the story dragged out a lot. I was really bored during most of it. It's supposedly a horror story where a doctor tells in a series of letters the story of one of the cases he attempted to solve of a man suffering from hallucinations and connecting it to religion.

I like the idea but it was really boring!

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## **Julia says**

So was the green tea of the mid 1800s different than the green tea today? It appears to have hallucinogenic properties. The gentleman in the story begins to see the apparition of a monkey after drinking large quantities of green tea. The story was interesting but I didn't care for the writing style.

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## **Danielle The Book Huntress (Back to the Books) says**

Interesting read. I felt bad for Mr. Jennings for what he suffered, and for so long. Being who he was, it seemed even worse for the poor fellow. I don't think it was just a nervous condition. I think it's kind of funny that large amounts of green tea seems to open the poor man's 'third eye.' My sister is an avid green tea drinker. I suppose I ought to warn her. Personally, it's a little too bitter for my tastes, but I digress.

Dr. Hesselius is an interesting protagonist, a doctor who treats the spirit and the body. I hope to read more of his stories.

As far as writing style, I found this a little more easy to read than Carmilla. Mr. Le Fanu writes beautifully, although not simply. That's okay. I kind of like the old-fashioned manner of writing of the prior centuries, and this one wasn't a tad dry like Carmilla was.

Like many classic horror short stories, the conclusion is sort of up to one's interpretation. That works for me. I never liked being spoon-fed ideas in literature.

Although not scary, there are some elements that are a bit eerie. Green Tea was a pretty satisfying story--a nice, quick read.

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