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Loren D. Estleman

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Accompanied by Dr. Watson, master sleuth Sherlock Holmes has already encountered the evil young hedonist Edward Hyde, and knew he was strangely connected with Henry Jekyll, the wealthy, respectable London doctor.

It was not until the Queen herself requested it, however, that Holmes was officially on the case of the savage murder of Sir Danvers Carew—the blackest mystery of his career! Although Robert Louis Stevenson published his tale of Jekyll and Hyde as fiction, the hideous facts were true, insofar as Stevenson knew them.

Here, then, is the entire firsthand account of that devilish crime as recorded by Dr. Watson, with an explanation of why Holmes's personal involvement had to be kept secret—until now...

Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Holmes Details

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Author : Loren D. Estleman

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From Reader Review Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Holmes for online ebook

Tiana Hanson says

In writing any adventure of Sherlock Holmes, the modern writer must consider the time and place where the greatest literary detective made his home. While I am a huge fan of the BBC's modernized Sherlock, I recognize that not many novels can follow that particular flavor and be any good. In fact, it seems best to keep Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson in the Victorian era with the novels, especially with Holmes's peculiar ability to use modern forensic techniques.

A friend posted a picture of this particular book on Facebook, and I was immediately fascinated by the idea of joining Sherlock Holmes and the Hyde-and-seek game put down by Stevenson in a new novel. I was cautious, of course. Any novel of Sherlock Holmes written by an author who is not Sir Arthur Conan Doyle must keep to the same basic formatting: Watson as narrator, occasionally being left out, his tendency to overblow events a little and falsify what information might hurt the people of the time.

Estleman has succeeded magnificently. One of my favorite moments came when Mycroft and Sherlock met in 221B, and the brothers sparred with deductions as Watson watched in amazement. It underlined the abilities of the Holmes Men, while not casting Watson in a poor light. After all, who can keep up with one Holmes, let alone two?

The novel is well-paced, we never lose sight of Watson as an able narrator, and all of Holmes's peculiarities are underlined here. I thoroughly enjoyed the read, and feel it has earned a place on any favorites list of mine.

F.R. says

A curious piece appeared as the end story on the BBC's 'Six O'Clock News' the other week, suggesting that – all these years after Sir Arthur Conan-Doyle died – there will finally be a new Sherlock Holmes novel. Yes, that's right, the estate has given permission and noted author Anthony Horowitz has signed-up to write it, and us Sherlock Holmes fans will finally learn what the great detective did next. But what the BBC either didn't realise, or deliberately ignored, was that there are already *hundreds* of other Sherlock Holmes novels. If you ever went into the, now sadly defunct, 'Murder One' bookshop on Charing Cross Road, you'd have found whole shelves crammed full of ancillary Holmes fiction. There are writers who seemingly gave their entire careers over to creating new Baker Street set-tales, attacking the subject with a fervour which would have shocked Conan-Doyle. And so, for the BBC – even if they did have a nice author's interview to show – to imply that this new novel is in anyway unprecedented, really does smack of tardy and incompetent journalism. A simple Google search would be more informative.

For example, here we have Holmes coming together with another example of fin de siècle fiction, and to be fair Loren D. Estelman (an author I've never encountered before) does a perfectly creditable job of it. Undoubtedly he's helped by the fact that 'The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde' is a mystery story with a great twist (the twist, of course, being the thing that everyone knows about it). As such we follow Holmes and Watson as they try to get to the bottom of what hold Hyde actually has over Jekyll. They're expertly worked in to the text of Stephenson's novel (although the various subtexts of that wonderful book seem to have got lost), and it's definitely a fun ride. There are certainly flaws: this version of Holmes is

slightly too glib for my taste; while this American writer's London is sketchily drawn (and it seems highly unlikely that any Victorian gentleman would ever have referred to a "trash basket"), but there is a lot here which will please the wandering Holmes fan.

I'm giving it three stars which, the astute amongst you might notice, is the same rating I gave to 'The Valley of Fear'. That isn't because I believe it's as good a book as 'The Valley of Fear', but until Goodreads allows us to mark in half stars, or even percentage points (what fun we'd all have if we were allowed to rank books a 2.4 or a 3.7) then 3 stars will have to do. Just as margarine is a suitable replacement if you can't get any real butter, once you've reached the end of original Sherlock Holmes books, then this is perfectly acceptable.

Fred Hughes says

A great Sherlock tale where we know more than he does.

A great feeling to see Sherlock and Watson struggling to understand the elusive Mr Hyde while trying to link him to Dr Jekyll.

Only in the end does it dawn on Sherlock although it is the most improbable solution it is the only one left.

Great series and recommended book

KaroLin (Fiktion fetzt) says

Insgesamt ein solides Sherlock Holmes Abenteuer - ich fühlte mich recht gut unterhalten. Allerdings braucht der Detektiv in diesem Roman für meinen Geschmack einen Tick zu lange, um dem Geheimnis auf den Grund zu kommen - man ist einen clevereren Holmes gewohnt. Wenn man das Jekyll und Hyde Original von Stevenson noch gut im Kopf hat, hat das Buch außerdem die eine oder andere Länge, da einiges eben in sehr ähnlicher Form nacherzählt wird. Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Holmes eignet sich daher vielleicht eher als Lektüre, wenn man Dr. Jekylls Geheimnis noch nicht kennt.

Bailey Marissa says

A retelling of The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde but with Sherlock Holmes. It was slow at times, but it was never boring.

Recommended 13+ for themes and a moment in a brothel.

Glen U says

Having read Loren D. Estleman's excellent (despite the schlocky title) first Sherlock Holmes pastiche, "Sherlock Holmes Vs. Dracula", I was expecting the same Doyle-esque style of writing in "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Holmes". Starting with the fact that it has a much better title, I figured it would only get better. I was sadly

disappointed. Perhaps because Estleman was mirroring two great classical styles of writing, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Robert Louis Stevenson, the book was less than riveting from the start. The attempt to duplicate the manner of writing, especially the Victorian English feel that is needed for a good Holmesian pastiche, was less successful than his initial tribute to the great detective. The second part of the book was much more in the spirit of a Sherlock Holmes tale, and was eminently more readable. The slight departure from the conclusion, first written by Robert Louis Stevenson, did neither improve nor detract from Estleman's novel, but I do think that a greater deviation from the story line of the original "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" would have been beneficial to Estleman's book as it would have freed up Estleman's very creative mind and led to a much more free flowing telling. Still a credible job from one of my favorite writers, a good read.

Jaime Contreras says

I was drawn to this novelized 'real' version of the story of Dr. Henry Jekyll and Mr. Edward Hyde. The twist here is that Sherlock Holmes and Dr. John Watson, M.D. are summoned by Scotland yard and the Queen's aide, Mr. Utterson after a member of Parliament is found slain. The setting is London in 1885. The duo begins to dig around Dr. Jekyll when he is implicated as knowing something of a person of interest - Mr. Hyde. Along the way, the two men find out about Dr. Jekyll's youthful visits to a local 'social' house and Mr. Hyde's angry tirades. As the truth becomes clear, a frightful chase through the West End of London, dead ends and a surprise about Dr. Jekyll's medical research meets the intrepid detectives. The novel ends with a full confession by Dr. Jekyll and his suicide.

I am a huge Sherlock Holmes' fan and was intrigued by the fact that this 'tale' was recorded by his assistant, Dr. Watson. The style of the story meanders at times and the pace is slower than I would like. The duo vows to keep the tale a secret but that goes by the wayside when they meet Robert Louis Stevenson who convinces Holmes to relay the tale based on Dr. Watson's notes. I found the novel entertaining and very authentic. This is a must for true Holmes fans. Kudos to Mr. Loren D. Estleman who writes this novel as an acquaintance of Dr. Watson's.

Ebster Davis says

As excellent a psychological science fiction as "The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde" was, its structured as a mystery. And it doesn't succeed very well as a mystery story for the very simple fact that everyone already knows what the solution to the mystery really is.

(It's on the freaking book cover!)

As a mystery novel, this book suffers from the same problem. However, it is a lot of fun watching Mr Holmes and Dr Watson work though something that we already have the answer to.

Their investigation into Mr Hyde's illicit activities, and Dr Jekyll's backstory, augment the original story in a way that I feel is organic and coherent. (although I don't agree with the idea that Henry Jekyll was so extremely idealistic in his younger years (view spoiler))

One thing I thought was really dumb about this book was the very beginning and the very end. The author comes up with an explanation for how s/he got the manuscript from whoever inherited Dr Watson's affects.

To me, it seemed really cheap. I'm already suspending my disbelief far enough to read a mashup of Sherlock Holmes and Dr Jekyll/Mr Hyde, some stupid preface is somehow going to make your work more credible. I made the mistake of reading the afterward too, it basically does the same thing except towards Robert Louis Stevenson. (LAAAMME!)

Dude, unless Henry Sturgess shows up in your basement as a vampire I really don't care.

I recommend this for people who like mashups.

Notes:

1) I really would have loved it if just one character (one!) started throwing out wild theories..

- *"Mr Hyde is Dr Jekyll's illegitimate son!"*

or

- *"Mr Hyde is a monkey who Dr Jekyll did experiments on in med school."*

Would have been so delightful...alas not :(

2) The original "The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde" is only about 100 pages.....I remember it being a lot longer when I was ten years old!

3) Also, I feel really bad for Gabe, I thought he was an idiot in the original novel, but in looking at the culture and time he is speaking from, he really was trying to protect the people he cared about and he basically lost his whole family.

4) Another thing I keep thinking about is that in this retelling, its a lot easier to write Henry off as an eccentric nutcase who just asked too many questions, instead of someone who was facing a struggle that any of us could have gone through (albiet on a bit grander scale). Interestingly, its Mr Holmes (who self-medicates for his unspecified mental health issues) who has more sympathy for Dr Jekyll, and Watson is the one who writes him off as a loony.

Susan says

Very good Sherlock Holmes pastiche. I enjoyed the author's take on Holmes and Watson's detecting skills, blending this with another literary classic, Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. Unfortunately I never read the latter book so am unable to mention the overlaps from that book into this one but I'm sure, since the author did a bang-up job with Holmes and Watson, that he did just as well with Stevenson's novel.

I look forward to reading another of his mysteries!

Laura Verret says

I must admit that I enjoyed this book. I purchased it at a book-sale thinking, "Hey, I really liked the Sherlock Holmes stories, Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde was okay, and this book only costs a dollar, anyway! Why not go for it?" So I went for it. I was expecting the story to be painfully cheesy, with horribly modern dialogue and descriptions ruining the beloved Sherlock and his faithful chronicler Watson. And at times (only occasionally, mind you) it did seem as though the author was trying a wee bit too hard to conjure up the classic Holmes before his readers. But on the whole, the story rang true.

Sherlock is first invited to join the case when Mr. Utterson arrives at his apartment at 221B Baker Street. Mr. Utterson is worried about his friend, Dr. Jekyll who has made an extraordinary and disturbing will, leaving his entire estate to the reprehensible Mr. Hyde on the occasion of his death, absence, or disappearance. Can Mr. Holmes discover the strange connection which binds these two seemingly opposite and incompatible men together? And can he do it before it is too late?

Again, not perfectly, but excellently handled by Mr. Estleman. This story will engage and delight anyone who has previously enjoyed the Sherlock Holmes stories or *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*.

Jonathan says

Having read and very much enjoyed, Loren D. Estleman's previous Sherlockian tale, "The Adventure of the Sanguinary Count", I was keen to read this equally fantastical tale. Many other writers have attempted a mash-up of various literary characters, invariably they have also failed to do it convincingly. Estleman seems to be able to do this very well. He also manages to recreate Arthur Conan-Doyle's narrative style exceptionally. Indeed this is one of the most authentic depictions of Dr Watson's voice I have read. I often say that a new Sherlockian tale lives or dies on this point. If it is evident that it is not written in a similar way, then the storyline will suffer as a result.

Estleman is a very accomplished writer and the fact he is a Sherlock fan is evident in his conveyance of the story. My one criticism would be that the circumstances surrounding the mystery of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde, would have been discovered much more quickly. This makes it seem like there are some elements of the novel that are merely there as filler and aren't integral to the story. As all Sherlock fans know, however improbable the outcome may be when you eliminate all other possibilities, then it must be the truth. Even with its faults I enjoyed this book immensely and will definitely seek out other titles written by Estleman in the future. Sherlockian purists may find this kind of novel tiresome, but I find it appeals to that boyish side of my personality, a coming together of my most loved literary characters from my youth. Tales of adventure, mad scientists and monsters are every boys dream, so if you want a book that doesn't require much thought and can just be enjoyed as an entertaining yarn, then this book is definitely for you.

Judy Hall says

When a lawyer asks Holmes to look into a man named Edward Hyde, Holmes and Watson encounter the most villainous young man they have ever seen. They are unable to learn what control he has over Dr. Henry Jekyll and must step away from the mystery. Then the government asks them to look into the murder of

Danvers Carew. They are lead right back to Hyde.

Because he was constrained by the existing book I feel like Estleman didn't have a full Holmes story here. Maybe it was because I knew what was to happen with Jekyll and Hyde. It was still a good representation of Holmes, Watson and Mycroft. I appreciated it that part very much.

C.O. Bonham says

Estleman's mimicry of Doyle's writing style is much improved after *Sherlock Holmes Vs. Dracula*. This novel read almost as if it were an actual "Lost" Holmes Adventure.

The only problem is that pretty much everyone knows the solution to the mystery just by reading the title. If you have never read (or better yet have never heard of) Robert Louis Stevenson's Classic Horror tale then I would recommend reading this book, *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Holmes*, first. It will make this book more exciting and maybe make the ending more of a surprise, Though it does change Stevenson's ending just a bit.

Trisha says

Sherlock Holmes returns in this brilliantly conceived and written novel, and to make it even better, he is tackling the case of Jekyll and Hyde. First, a confession. If I have ever read an original Holmes story, I don't remember it. I have the complete Sherlock sitting on my TBR shelves, but I haven't had the motivation to pick it up. I, of course, have a general idea of who Holmes is and what he did since he is such an iconic figure. You would be hard-pressed, I think, to find someone who did not know about Holmes' logical reasoning skills. Does that make me qualified to assess how authentic this story is? Absolutely not. But damned if it didn't feel right. The relationship between Holmes and Watson seemed right on, with the one an eccentric keeping things relatively close to the chest and the other more formal doing a bit of clucking like a mother hen.

Just as Holmes as a character has permeated our culture so too has Dr. Jekyll and his alter ego Mr. Hyde. While combining two so very well known figures may seem kitsch, Estleman pulls it off admirably. Throughout the entire story, I never felt that either icon was treated carelessly. Actually I had no problem integrating this narrative into the original Jekyll and Hyde story. I felt it an interesting conceit to claim that Stevenson's story was based on real events but modified "to protect the innocent".

The story is wonderfully atmospheric with "the crackle of the fire and the staccato ticking of the clock atop the mantelpiece". And to my delight, the story included a bit of the darker side of Victorian London with a mention of Sherlock's cocaine and a quick trip to a burlesque show.

What surprised me most was how engrossed in the story I was despite the fact that the "mystery" was not really a mystery. After all, finding out that Hyde is Jekyll is not really a shocker, but the story didn't suffer from the familiarity. Despite knowing the outcome, I was engaged throughout, the journey to the truth being so much more exciting than the denouement. Following Holmes and Watson as they meticulously ferret out the truth was fascinating, in no small part because their investigation alternates between periods of intense

excitement (girly shows, barroom brawls, carriage chases) and quiet contemplation (exactly how I picture Sherlock).

Whether you have read Sherlock or not, whether you have read Jekyll or not, I definitely recommend reading this one. It was a quick, intellectual, exciting read. And I hear there is another pastiche out there pairing Holmes with Dracula. I must have it.

Joe says

Also from "The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" series, this novel imagines Dr. Watson and Sherlock on the trail of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. Though the author does a great job trying to "mash-up" Stevenson's story with Doyle's characters, the effect is unsuccessful. Since the reader knows from page one what Dr. Watson doesn't realize until the end, that Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde are the same person, the sense of mystery is almost entirely absent and the tension is strained.
