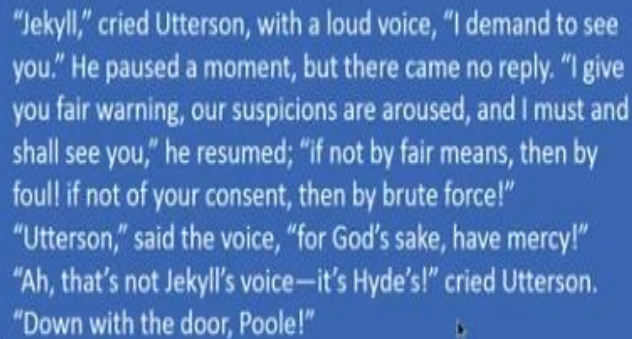


The Nineteenth Century Novel
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Lecture – 52
The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, Chapters 8

Hello and welcome back to week 12's lectures. We are in chapter eight, and things are coming to a head in this particular gothic thriller. We have Mr. Utterson and Poole getting ready with rest of the you know, helpers from the house and trying to find out who exactly is in the cabinet above the laboratory, and they are convinced that it is not Dr. Jekyll. So how does Mr. Utterson react to this understanding, so that is what we are going to see. And were also going to see what are the ideological implications in terms of the revelation that they see at the end of this chapter.

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"Jekyll," cried Utterson, with a loud voice, "I demand to see you." He paused a moment, but there came no reply. "I give you fair warning, our suspicions are aroused, and I must and shall see you," he resumed; "if not by fair means, then by foul! if not of your consent, then by brute force!"
"Utterson," said the voice, "for God's sake, have mercy!"
"Ah, that's not Jekyll's voice—it's Hyde's!" cried Utterson.
"Down with the door, Poole!"

So when Mr. Utterson is convinced by Poole that the man inside the cabinet is not Dr. Jekyll his friend, in fact the evil man whom the entire English society is trying to hunt down, that is Mr. Hyde, he offers a final threat. "Jekyll," cried Utterson, with a loud voice, 'I demand to see you.' He paused a moment, but there came no reply." You need to understand that they are standing outside a locked door to the cabinet, and there is this person inside, you know, and they want that person to open the door.

“I give you fair warning, our suspicions are aroused, and I must and shall see you,' he resumed; 'if not by fair means, then by foul! If not of your consent, then by brute force!' 'Utterson,' said the voice, 'for God's sake, have mercy!' 'Ah, that is not Jekyll's voice - it is Hyde's!' cried Utterson. 'Down with the door, Poole!'" So it is a very significant moment in the narrative.

Because it is bringing up a lot of, you know, thematic concepts that we have been grappling with, you know, since the novel kickstarted with a horrible attack by Mr. Hyde on a young girl. So let us take this except slowly, we have Utterson issuing warning, fair warning to the person who was inside and asking the person to of his own consent open the door, and at this stage in the novel Mr. Utterson is not going to follow by fair rules, fair means.

He has you know, exhausted all those strategies, all those diplomacies, all the polite, you know, veneer of society has been kind of put aside by Mr. Utterson at this stage, and he says if you do not consent I will open the door by brute force. So you know, civilization is taking a back seat, brute force is taking a front seat here, and brutality, force is going to be employed even by the sophisticated, polite Mr. Utterson to find out who exactly is inside.

And when the voice says Utterson for God's sake have mercy, Utterson immediately realizes is that it is not Dr. Jekyll but it is Mr. Hyde. And he has proof, tangible proof, and that proof gives him the moral righteousness to break open the door. So he is armed by the idea that he is doing the right thing when he tells Poole, when he directs Poole down with the door.

Again that idea of breaking into a home, the idea of entering a house by the door, the idea of not being shut out, the idea of being shut out, all these you know, complications in terms of you know, being invited in and being shut out is brought to a head with this phrase and the door is broken down. And if you remember the very first chapter, it is titled the Story of the Door, and we have that door being broken down symbolically and literally here.

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The quietest room ?

- The besiegers, appalled by their own riot and the stillness that had succeeded, stood back a little and peered in. There lay the cabinet before their eyes in the quiet lamplight, a good fire glowing and chattering on the hearth, the kettle singing its thin strain, a drawer or two open, papers neatly set forth on the business-table, and nearer the fire, the things laid out for tea: the quietest room, you would have said, and, but for the glazed presses full of chemicals, the most commonplace that night in London.

The besiegers, the narrator calls them the besiegers, who are the besiegers? Mr. Utterson and Mr. Poole who are besieging, they are attacking. They are called besiegers because they are attacking the space that belonged to Dr. Jekyll. “The besiegers, appalled by their own riot and the stillness that had succeeded, stood back a little and peered in. There lay the cabinet before their eyes in the quiet lamp light, a good fire glowing and chattering on the hearth, the kettle singing its thin strain, a drawer or two open, papers neatly set forth on the business table, and nearer the fire, the things laid out for tea: the quietest room, you would have said, and, but for the glazed presses full of chemicals, the most commonplace that night in London.”

So we have a very domestic scene in front of us. There is a nice fire burning in the hearth, there is a kettle singing its thin strain, it is making its usual welcoming sound, the kettle indicates, you know, tea time, things are laid out for tea, papers are neatly arranged on the business table, you know, one or two drawers are open. The room is very quiet very calm and the narrator says that you would have said if he had seen the scene that its the most common scene that night in London.

It is a very domestic scene, if not for the presence of chemicals in the room. If not for those glass cupboards full of chemicals, you know, that would indicate that this is not a domestic, you know, set up, this is not a domestic scene, it is a scene associated with scientific experiments. So there

is warmth in the room, there is quietness, but underneath that quietness and warm there is something very disturbing that is whirling about in this particular room.

And the besiegers, the two men Utterson and Poole, they are struck by their own, you know, brutality in breaking down this particular door to the cabinet, and they are also taken aback by the stillness, the quietness, and they take a step, a step back and look in carefully.

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The Cheval Glass

- Next, in the course of their review of the chamber, the searchers came to the cheval glass, into whose depths they looked with an involuntary horror. But it was so turned as to show them nothing but the rosy glow playing on the roof, the fire sparkling in a hundred repetitions along the glazed front of the presses, and their own pale and fearful countenances stooping to look in.

So what they do is they realize that there is this dead body of Mr. Hyde lying in that cabinet, and they are, you know, confirmed in their fears. That it is not Dr. Jekyll who is in this cabinet, it is in fact Mr. Hyde, and he has committed suicide by taking poison. So what else do they see in the room in their review? So after looking at the dead body, they are in the “course of their review of the chamber, the searchers came to the cheval glass, into whose depths they looked with an involuntary horror. But it was so turned as to show them nothing but the rosy glow playing on the roof, the fire sparkling in a hundred repetitions along the glazed front of the presses, and their own pale and fearful countenances stooping to look in.”

So when they look around the cabinet, they see that cheval glass, the big looking glass, and they look into the mirror with an involuntary horror. They are expecting to see something horrible, but it was you know, nothing horrifying reflected. In fact they are able to see the rosy glow that is reflected on the roof of the cabinet, and they also see reflections of fire that is reflected on the

glass, you know, front of the cupboards, and they also see their own pale, you know, withdrawn faces which have no colour, and fearful countenances, they are also frightened about what they have seen just now.

So they just see their reflections, their frightened faces looking back at them. So this is what they meet with in this cabinet where the dead body of Hyde is also lying on the floor.

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The Cheval Glass

- 'This glass have seen some strange things, sir,' whispered Poole. 'And surely none stranger than itself,' echoed the lawyer in the same tones. 'For what did Jekyll' — he caught himself up at the word with a start, and then conquering the weakness — 'what could Jekyll want with it?' he said.

And when they see this glass, Poole whispers “This glass have seen some strange things,” he whispered. “And surely none stranger than itself,' echoed the lawyer in the same tones.” You know, that cheval glass itself is very strange. “For what did Jekyll' - he caught himself up at the word with a start, and then conquering the weakness - 'what could Jekyll want with it?' he said.” What is the purpose in having a big glass in this particular room?

And he is really disturbed by that question. He, you know, he weakens when he thinks about the possible reasons for possessing a glass like that in this particular room. So we do not know what is disturbing Mr. Utterson at this point. Again that is a mystery, why does he need a glass?

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A New Will

- The first was a will, drawn in the same eccentric terms as the one which he had returned six months before, to serve as a testament in case of death and as a deed of gift in case of disappearance; but, in place of the name of Edward Hyde, the lawyer, with indescribable amazement, read the name of Gabriel John Utterson.

What else do they find in this particular room? They find a new will. So the first was a will, the two papers that they meet with, one of them is “a will, drawn in the same eccentric terms as the one which he had returned six months before, to serve as a testament in the case of death and as a deed of gift in the case of disappearance; but, in place of the name of Edward Hyde, the lawyer, with indescribable amazement, read the name of Gabriel John Utterson.”

So what is all about this will? This will has been much talked about, much discussed between Mr. Utterson and Dr. Jekyll. In fact it is a bone of contention between the two men because Mr. Utterson has not very happy with the fact that Dr. Jekyll is giving his property, his wealth to this, you know, evil fellow on his, you know, on Dr. Jekyll’s death or disappearance, because the disappearance part was amended, was included into the will the second time.

And Mr. Utterson believed that Mr. Hyde was the one who made Dr. Jekyll amend the will in such a fashion. So the will is a problematic document, and Mr. Utterson believes that Mr. Hyde will murder Dr. Jekyll in order to get the property of Dr. Jekyll. So that is his belief. And now, suddenly, he realizes that the will has been amended again, and this time the beneficiary of Dr. Jekyll’s death or disappearance is not Mr. Hyde the evil man, but the lawyer himself, Gabriel John Utterson.

So this is a startling revelation here for Mr. Utterson. And he also realizes that Mr. Hyde would have been, you know, extremely angry to see this fresh amendment to the will, the fresh and radical change to the will made by Dr. Jekyll. And he realizes that Hyde would not have been pleased, he would have been furious. But the, you know, interesting thing for Mr. Utterson is that why has not Hyde destroyed this will, this amended will? The answer is mysterious again.

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MR. UTTERSON'S ANXIETIES

- "O Poole!" the lawyer cried, "he was alive and here this day. He cannot have been disposed of in so short a space, he must be still alive, he must have fled! And then, why fled? and how? and in that case, can we venture to declare this suicide? Oh, we must be careful. I foresee that we may yet involve your master in some dire catastrophe."

"O Poole!" the lawyer cried, "he was alive and here this day. He cannot have been disposed of in so short a space, he must be still alive, he must have fled! And then, why fled? And how? And in that case, can we venture to declare this suicide? Oh, we must be careful. I foresee that we may yet involve your master in some dire catastrophe." So when he sees that there is also a note written to Mr. Utterson.

And on this particular day, the day they had broken into the cabinet, he realizes that, you know, Dr. Jekyll was alive, you know, until a short while ago. He cannot have been disposed of in so short a space, he must still be alive, he must have fled the scene. So this is what Mr. Utterson assumes pretty quickly, and then he wonders why did he flee? Why flee? And how did he flee, because all the doors seem to be monitored.

And if Dr. Jekyll has fled, can we call, can we term Mr. Hyde's death as suicide? Was he done away with? That is the hidden question. Oh, we must be careful, that is what he implies. We

cannot throw suspicions on Dr. Jekyll. So he wants to protect the reputation of Dr. Jekyll till the last minute, and he does not want to involve his master in, Mr. Poole's master in some dire catastrophe like, you know, staining his reputation by these accusations that he is thinking about involuntarily.

So these are some of the anxieties of Mr. Utterson. And he is, you know, thinking about all these possibilities because of the documents that he comes across. The first document is the will, and the second is the note, and the note tells Mr. Utterson that he is going to face a terrible calamity, and then he is also asking Mr. Utterson to read Dr. Lanyon's narrative if he is no longer around.

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NEW NOTE, DIRECTIONS

- *"My Dear Utterson,—When this shall fall into your hands, I shall have disappeared, under what circumstances I have not the penetration to foresee, but my instinct and all the circumstances of my nameless situation tell me that the end is sure and must be early. Go then, and first read the narrative which Lanyon warned me he was to place in your hands; and if you care to hear more, turn to the confession of
"Your unworthy and unhappy friend,
"Henry Jekyll."*

So this is the note that we are discussing. In that note we have Dr. Jekyll write to Utterson on this day when the door was broken into, and the death of Hyde occurs. "My dear Utterson, - when this shall fall into your hands, I shall have disappeared, under what circumstances I have not the penetration to foresee, but my instinct and all the circumstances of my nameless situation tell me that the end is sure and must be early. Go then, and first read the narrative which Lanyon warned me he was to place in your hands; and if you care to hear more, turn to the confession of your unworthy and unhappy friend, Henry Jekyll."

So we have a really startling note as well. And this note written on this particular day tells Mr. Utterson that when he reads this note, he would have disappeared. Under what conditions, he

does not have the, you know, foresight, he cannot foresee how he would have disappeared, in what way. But then, he also tells him that his end is near, his death is quite near, and it must be early, it is, it should be soon. And he advises Mr. Utterson to read the narrative of Lanyon which Lanyon told him that he was going to give it to Mr. Utterson. And if you want to know more, Dr. Jekyll says that please read my confession. So there is a big letter attached to this particular note.

And it is signed your unworthy and unhappy friend. So the unworthiness of Dr. Jekyll is stated by the man himself, and it is going to be proved in the following two chapters. Further, what is interesting about this note is, you know, again, the writing is used to, you know, not only hide identities, but it is also used to amp up, to increase the intensity of the mystery. So the end is kind of suspended, constantly suspended, disclosure is also suspended.

So we expect something really catastrophic to happen in this particular incident and we do see that happen with the death of Mr. Hyde. But then, we do not know about the whereabouts of Dr. Jekyll. So we want to know more about his status, and we do not know. Because that is kind of you know, suspended, we instead have letters and notes filling out the situation and the end is kind of postponed.

So writing letters, notes, are useful instruments to prolong the suspension, prolong the, you know, end. It is kind of helpful in not resolving the narrative. Thank you for watching I will

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