

## THE CAREW MURDER CASE

5 About a year later, in October, a very important man, a Member of Parliament, was horribly murdered in London. The crime was seen by a servant girl who was looking out of her window at about 11 o'clock one moonlit night. She saw a tall, old, white-haired gentleman walking along the street and a smaller man coming from the opposite direction. When they met under her window, she saw the older man bow. Then she heard him speak to the other man. She recognised the other man as Mr Hyde, a man who had once visited her employer. Although the tall man's greeting seemed quite friendly, and might have been a polite request for directions, the smaller man flew into a violent temper, and started hitting the white-haired gentleman with a thick walking-stick. He repeatedly hit him, "like a madman" as the servant said, until the older man fell to the ground. Then Hyde started kicking and stamping on him. The servant heard the sound of breaking bones and then she fainted.



## Glossary

- **bow:** bend as a sign of respect
- **fainted:** felt weak and fell, losing consciousness
- **Member of Parliament:** someone elected to the government
- **temper:** state of great anger

It was 2 o'clock when she woke up again and called for the police. Hyde had gone, but the broken body of the tall old man was still lying on the ground. The stick that Hyde had used had broken in half in the violent action, and one of the pieces was lying near the body. The other half had been carried away by the murderer. When the police arrived, they found money and a gold watch in the old man's pockets, and also an envelope addressed to Mr Utterson.

The envelope was taken to the lawyer at his home early in the morning, before he got out of bed. Mr Utterson would say nothing until he saw the body. There he recognised the body as that of Sir Danvers Carew, the well-known and well-respected Member of Parliament. The police now realised that this was a very important case and asked Utterson to help them find the criminal. They told him what the servant had seen, and the name by which she knew the murderer. At the mention of Hyde's name, Utterson grew frightened. Then they showed him the broken walking-stick. Mr Utterson recognised it as a part of a walking-stick that he had given Dr Jekyll many years ago. It was clear that the 'Mr Hyde' the servant had seen was the same Mr Hyde that he knew.

"If you come with me, I can show you where this Hyde lives," he told the police.

At about nine in the morning they drove in a cab through a thick fog to the Soho address that Hyde had written down for Utterson. When the fog lifted a little they could see it was a poor area of the city. This was where Jekyll's heir lived, a man who could inherit Jekyll's fortune of 25,000 pounds.

- **cab:** taxi
- **fog:** mist; vapour like clouds at ground level
- **heir:** someone who will receive your property when you die

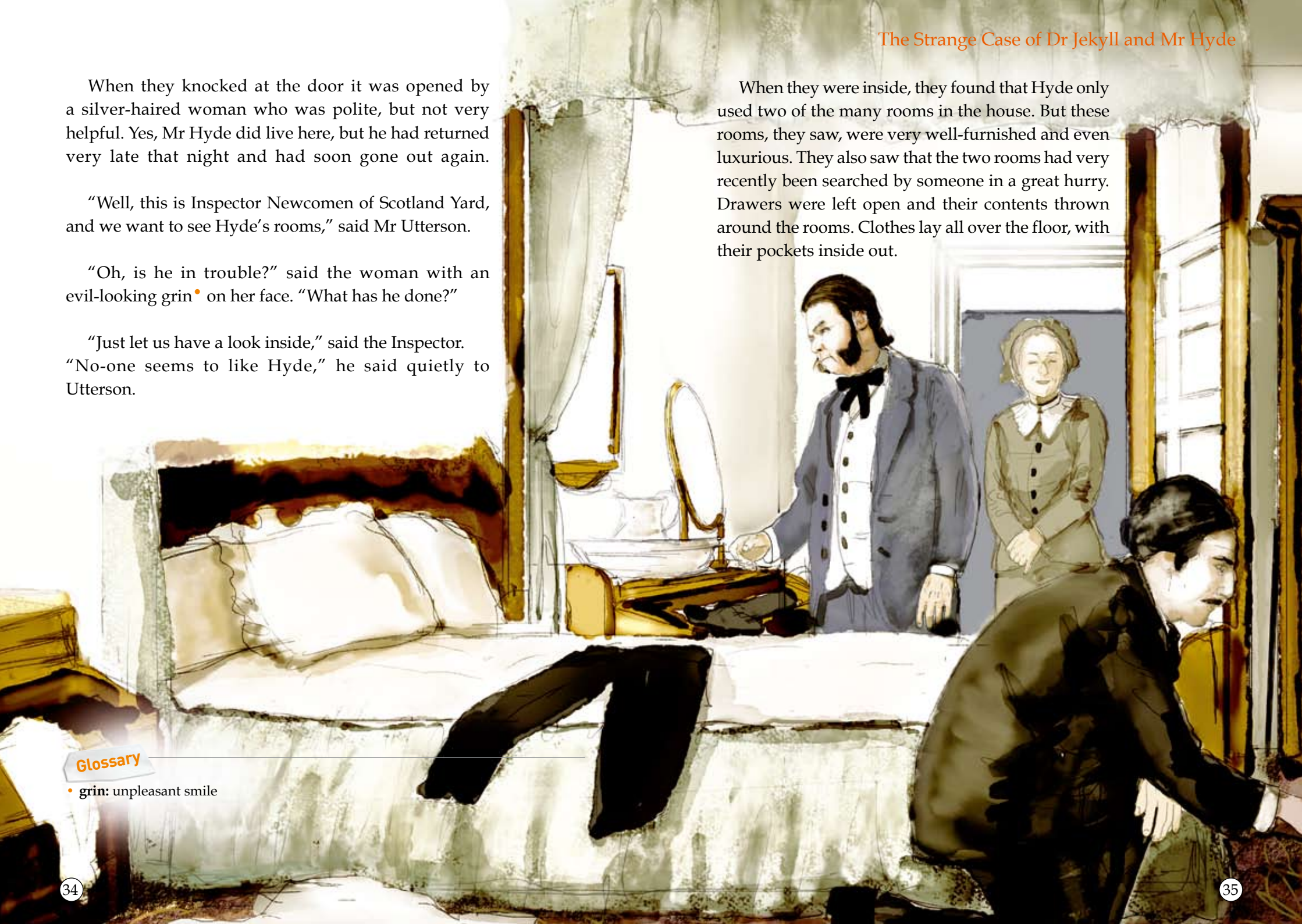
When they knocked at the door it was opened by a silver-haired woman who was polite, but not very helpful. Yes, Mr Hyde did live here, but he had returned very late that night and had soon gone out again.

“Well, this is Inspector Newcomen of Scotland Yard, and we want to see Hyde’s rooms,” said Mr Utterson.

“Oh, is he in trouble?” said the woman with an evil-looking grin on her face. “What has he done?”

“Just let us have a look inside,” said the Inspector. “No-one seems to like Hyde,” he said quietly to Utterson.

When they were inside, they found that Hyde only used two of the many rooms in the house. But these rooms, they saw, were very well-furnished and even luxurious. They also saw that the two rooms had very recently been searched by someone in a great hurry. Drawers were left open and their contents thrown around the rooms. Clothes lay all over the floor, with their pockets inside out.



### Glossary

- **grin:** unpleasant smile

There was also a pile of ashes in the cold fireplace, in which Newcomen found the remains of a cheque book •. There was also a broken half of a walking-stick leaning against the wall behind the door. The stick, Inspector Newcomen decided, proved that Hyde was the murderer. Because he found the cheque book in the ashes, he also decided to visit Hyde's bank. When they reached the bank and talked to the manager, they discovered that there were several thousand pounds in Hyde's account.

“Now we know we can find him easily,” said the Inspector. “He must have lost his mind otherwise he would never have been stupid enough to burn the cheque book and then leave the stick for us to find. Why, money is life to the man. All we have to do is wait for him at the bank, and let everyone know we are looking for him,” said the policeman.

However, this was easier said than done. Very few people knew anything about Hyde, and no-one had any photographs of him. His family could not be found, and no-one could agree on an exact description of him, except that in some indescribable and haunting • way he did not look normal.



### Glossary

- **cheque book:** book from a bank where you can write an amount of money and use it like cash
- **haunting:** that is always in your mind