

CHAPTER FOUR

CONCLUSION

After analyzing H. G. Wells' Invisible Man and Robert Louis Stevenson's The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, in this chapter I would like to draw some conclusions.

From the analysis, I can conclude that the purpose of H. G. Wells in creating the character of Griffin is to show that science is just a tool. Its good or bad outcomes depend solely on how it is used. We can see this from Griffin, who becomes slowly but surely mentally ill due to his obsession with science. Griffin is the model of science without humanity, as he never intends to use it for good. He begins his road of decline in college when he becomes so obsessed with his experiments that he becomes paranoid as he hides his work in fear that anyone else would receive credit. He becomes an introvert when he begins to focus all of his attention merely on the concept of invisibility and neglects to think about the consequences of such a condition. The evil that he could commit does not occur to him until after he has swallowed the potion and seen the reaction of the landlord and others, which makes him feel invincible. Then he decides to use it for his own needs.

The irony is that his invisibility is good only for approaching people without being seen and for getting away. Any gain from his crimes are useless to him. He cannot enjoy any of the normal comforts of life-such as food, clothes, and money. Thus the condition that would make him invulnerable also renders him helpless, which slowly causes him to become psychopathic. In spite of his actions, Griffin at no time expresses any remorse for his behavior or for the crimes, which he selfishly describes as necessary. He goes from obsession to fanaticism and finally to insanity, becoming a curse to the society.

Robert Louis Stevenson's purpose in creating the character Dr. Jekyll is to criticize humans who tamper with science without moral limitations which leads to misuse of science, and, in the end, their own downfall. We can see this from how a respectable man such as Dr. Jekyll can turn into a cruel, despicable monster like Edward Hyde. At first, Jekyll appears as moral and decent, engaging in charity work and enjoying a reputation as a courteous and genial man. Seeing himself as a model, he becomes convinced that humans are composed of both good and evil parts, and he devises a drug to separate these components. By taking the drug, he is able to turn into Hyde, the evil part of himself. However, sometime later he wakes to discover that he has changed into Hyde without taking the drug, and he realizes that Hyde is becoming stronger. From then on, he is engaged in a continual struggle to find a way to cure himself, becoming reclusive in the process. He must take the drug continually just to become Jekyll, and, when he runs out of it, he realizes that he has been fighting a losing battle with himself. Realizing that he will soon turn into Hyde for the last time, he becomes

despondent and declares his life is over. He commits suicide to as a final attempt to stop himself.

After analyzing the portrayal of characters in the two novels, I would like to discuss some similarities and differences between them:

The similarities are both protagonists plunge to their fall because of their ways of using science without a good purpose. In The Invisible Man the protagonist uses the result of his scientific experiment for evil things such as murder, theft, etc., which causes him to be hated and killed by the society at the end of the story. The protagonist of The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, at first had a good intention in using the result of his scientific experiment, but after experiencing the effects, he starts to enjoy doing evil things; as the effects start to overwhelm him and he cannot do anything about it, he commits suicide.

As for the differences, the protagonist from The Invisible Man is a static character who starts out having evil characteristics and stays the same until the end of the story, while the protagonist of The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde is a dynamic character who starts as a good man but then turns evil. Another difference is the protagonist of The Invisible Man does not have a good purpose at all in using his scientific experiment. When he first becomes invisible, he does not think about using it for good but only for evil purposes such as using his invisibility to fulfill his material needs. On the other hand, the protagonist of The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde had a good purpose when he created the potion, which is to scientifically prove that man is not one but two, and to separate the good and evil in man. But after he drinks the potion, he becomes corrupted by

it and decides to use it to satisfy his long-strained evil urges. The last one is that the protagonist of The Invisible Man does not try to stop the evil things that he has done until he is killed while the protagonist of The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde tries to stop the evil things by committing suicide to prevent him from doing more evil.

In my opinion, both novels are good to read because the writers succeed in conveying their messages through the portrayal of the protagonists and it also give us some new perspectives about the use of science in our everyday lives. Personally, I like The Invisible Man better because it is easier to read and comprehend, it also has a clearer plot. The character is also portrayed realistically and is more plausible and I can clearly feel the thrilling atmosphere the character creates. As for The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, it also has a great story but the main weakness of this novel is too many details are left out, such as the many crimes that Mr. Hyde commits, and the process of how Jekyll creates the potion. This causes some difficulties in understanding the plot. Also, the character sounds somehow too hypocritical, making it hard to be plausible. Nevertheless, both are great novels to read and analyze and I would recommend that people read both novels because of its great story and characters.