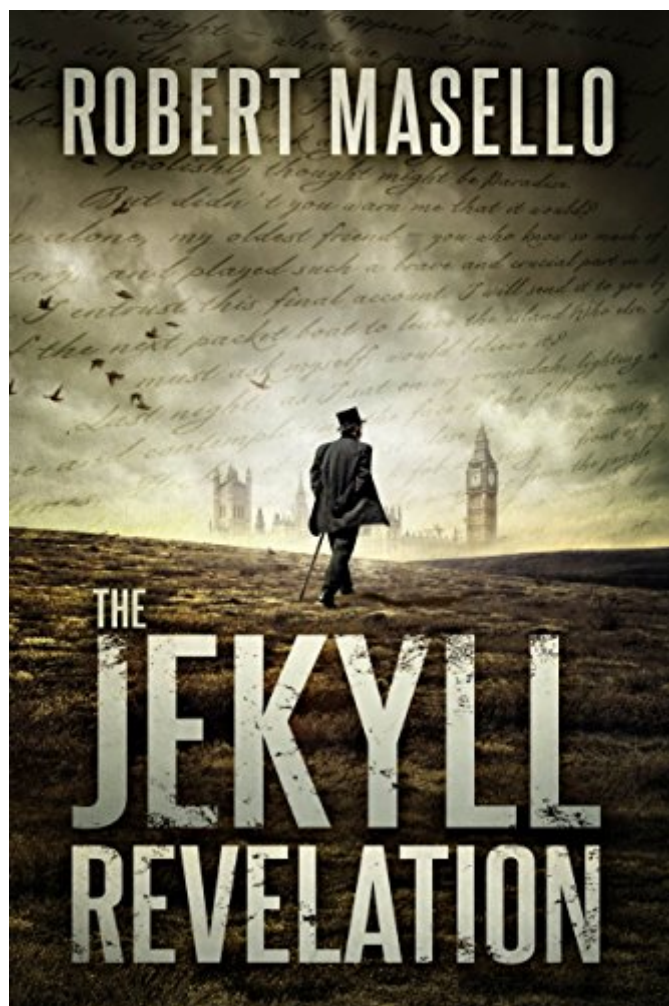


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The Jekyll Revelation



Synopsis

A spellbinding thriller from the bestselling author of *The Einstein Prophecy*. A chilling curse is transported from 1880s London to present-day California, awakening a long-dormant fiend. While on routine patrol in the tinder-dry Topanga Canyon, environmental scientist Rafael Salazar expects to find animal poachers, not a dilapidated antique steamer trunk. Inside the peculiar case, he discovers a journal, written by the renowned Robert Louis Stevenson, which divulges ominous particulars about his creation of *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*. It also promises to reveal a terrible secret—the identity of Jack the Ripper. Unfortunately, the journal—whose macabre tale unfolds in an alternating narrative with Rafe—isn't the only relic in the trunk, and Rafe isn't the only one to purloin a souvenir. A mysterious flask containing the last drops of the grisly potion that inspired Jekyll and Hyde and spawned London's most infamous killer has gone missing. And it has definitely fallen into the wrong hands.

Book Information

File Size: 3488 KB

Print Length: 493 pages

Publisher: 47North (November 8, 2016)

Publication Date: November 8, 2016

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B010JG1YFO

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #14,288 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #30 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Historical > Alternate History #37 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Alternative History #50 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Gothic

Customer Reviews

Robert Masello writes with intellect and muscle, telling a tale based on historical truth embellished

with rich imagination. The story is set in two time periods, in two very different locales, London, England and Topanga Canyon, California, both places very familiar to me, yet he makes them new. Switching back and forth from past to present, his writing is seamless, propelling the story to its powerful conclusion without ever losing the narrative thread. I love Masello's novels and this is one of my favorite!

The Jekyll Revelation
By: Robert Masello
5 out of 5 stars
The story The Jekyll Revelation by Robert Masello is a historical horror/thriller. Rafael Salazar is an environmental scientist who finds a trunk. The contents reveal a journal. It is through this journal that we meet Robert Louis Stevenson during a trip he has taken because of health reasons in the 1800's. The journal also reports on the creation of Stevenson's story The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. There is one more secret promised, the identity of Jack the Ripper. Rafael doesn't realize that this was not the only relic that was found in the trunk. A mysterious flask which contains a potion that has awful consequences to anyone who drinks it. The wrong person now has that flask. This story is awesome! I wanted to read this book for three reasons, first is that it is about Jack the Ripper and the story of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. The second reason is the description that is given as to what the book is about. The third is the writer. I have always had friends of mine tell me that you have to read this book by Robert Masello. I am now glad I choose this book. The atmosphere of the book is such that you can just feel yourself walking the streets of London. This story has such detail and I can only imagine how much time and energy went into writing such a book. I for one am glad it is written. The characters are an interesting lot. You will recognize some names, the others you can draw your own conclusions on their parts. The book is told from the POV of Rafael Salazar in the present day and through the journal that he found that was to have been written by Robert Louis Stevenson. The back and forth in the different time periods is very smooth. I highly recommend this book to anyone who loves horror/thrillers with a historical setting. Since the subject matter is dark I would recommend this book for those 18 years or older. I voluntarily reviewed a copy of this book.

I meant to save this for holiday reading, but once I got into it, I couldn't put it down. Masello is an expert at this historical thriller business, combining painstaking research with a deft touch for tension and general creepiness. This time he combines RL Stevenson, recuperating in Samoa, links him up with Jack the Ripper and bounces back to the present, throwing in some SoCal eco-science just for fun. Having hiked countless times in Topanga Canyon, I loved the settings. Makes me want to curl up in a corner at Inn of the Seventh Ray and read it again.

“The Jekyll Revelation” is a clever play on Robert Louis Stevenson’s “The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde,” with the notorious Jack the Ripper playing the role of Stevenson’s titular villain. And the fact that Stevenson is one of the book’s protagonists only adds to this cunning tale. The story is a mystery of sorts that unfolds in parallel. One part in the present, and the other in the late nineteenth century. In the present, we’re introduced to Rafael Salazar, a field officer with the Bureau of Land Management in Topanga Canyon near Los Angeles. I actually grew up right near there, so this part of the book reminded me a ton of my hometown. The mystery, however, concerns an old steamer trunk half submerged in a lake. Among other things, the trunk happens to contain a secret journal written by Robert Louis Stevenson, and soon it’s revealed that the past storyline is actually the contents of the journal Rafael discovers. There’s a whole lot more to the present storyline, including a romantic subplot and a canyon full of tension between Rafael and the local biker gang. But it is the parallel storyline involving Stevenson that really makes the book. The story begins in Switzerland where Stevenson is seeking an experimental cure for the tuberculosis he suffers from. The clinic is an old mansion tucked away in the Alps that reminded me a lot of the James Bond movie “On Her Majesty’s Secret Service.” Stevenson, who is there with his wife and stepson, soon discovers that all is not right at the clinic, and that its famous owner, Dr. Rãedi, is engaging in strange and very dangerous experiments. From there, the story moves to London during the time of Jack the Ripper. In an author’s note at the end, Masello states that his inspiration for the book came from the fact that the first murder by Jack the Ripper occurred at a time when the stage play for Stevenson’s “The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde” was playing in London. In fact, according to Masello, suspicion for the killings even fell on Stevenson for a time. The mystery behind Jack the Ripper (who was never captured in real life) drives the second half the book and made it a story I won’t soon forget. And, in a deft bit of storytelling, the mystery of the Ripper even manifests itself in Rafael’s timeline. The most suspenseful and chilling parts, however, play out in Stevenson’s tale. He’s a compelling character, and after 493 pages, I feel like I’ve lived the adventure alongside the famous author. It’s even inspired me to go back and read the one classic of his I never got around to: “The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde.”

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