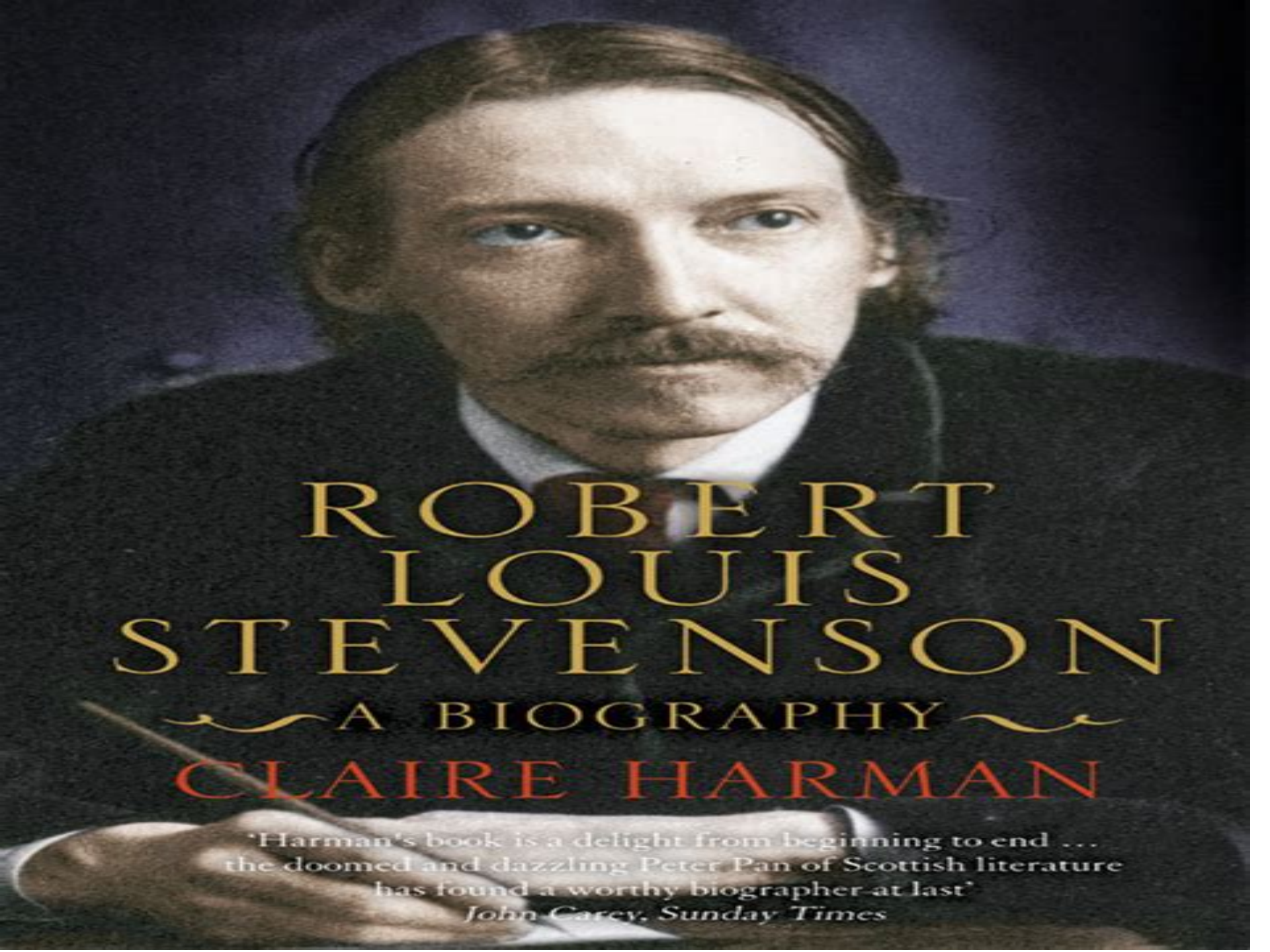


A portrait of Robert Louis Stevenson, a man with long, wavy brown hair and a mustache, wearing a dark suit and a white shirt with a dark tie. He is looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. The background is dark and out of focus.

ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON

~ A BIOGRAPHY ~

CLAIRE HARMAN

'Harman's book is a delight from beginning to end ...
the doomed and dazzling Peter Pan of Scottish literature
has found a worthy biographer at last'

John Carey, Sunday Times

Robert Louis Stevenson A Biography

Jacqueline Overton



Robert Louis Stevenson A Biography:

Robert Louis Stevenson Claire Harman, 2006 The most authoritative comprehensive perceptive biography of R L Stevenson to date using for the first time his collected correspondence which has been unavailable to all previous writers The short life of Robert Louis Stevenson 1850-94 was as adventurous as almost anything in his fiction his travels illness struggles to become a writer relationships with his volatile wife and step family friendships and quarrels have fascinated readers for over a century In his time he was both engineer and aesthete dutiful son and reckless lover Scotsman and South Sea Islander Covenanter and atheist Stevenson's books including *Treasure Island* *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* and *Kidnapped* have achieved world fame others *The Master of Ballantrae* *A Child's Garden of Verses* *Travels with a Donkey* remain all time favourites His unique gift for storytelling and dramatic characterisation has meant that some of his characters live in the consciousness even of those who have never read his work Long John Silver with his wooden leg and his parrot is more real to most people than any historical pirate while Jekyll and Hyde has become a universally recognised term for a split personality No biography has yet done justice to the complex brilliant and troubled man who was responsible for so many remarkable creations His interest in psychology genetics technology and feminism anticipated the concerns of the next century while his experiments in narrative technique inspired post modern innovators such as Borges and Nabokov Stevenson's recently collected correspondence shows him to have been the least Victorian of Victorian writers a man of humour resilience and strongly unconventional views With access to this and much previously unpublished material Claire Harman the acclaimed biographer of Sylvia Townsend Warner and Fanny Burney has written the most authoritative comprehensive and perceptive portrait of RLS to date

Robert Louis Stevenson Frank McLynn, 1993 This biography of Robert Louis Stevenson is written in the firm conviction that Stevenson is a major figure in English literature whose reputation has suffered unjustly in the 100 years since his death

Robert Louis Stevenson William Gray, 2004-03-12 More than most writers Robert Louis Stevenson requires a Literary Life Fascination with Stevenson's life the Stevenson biography is almost a minor genre has tended to eclipse his literary achievement This study focuses on Stevenson's writing practice within the different geographical cultural and political contexts that shaped it from Scotland to the South Seas Following Stevenson's own views on biography the book is not structured primarily in terms of chronology but is more a kind of literary geography than traditional literary history

Dreams of Exile Ian Bell, 2024-07-02 The renowned nineteenth century author of *Treasure Island* gets his due in an admirable biography full of intelligence and scruple beautifully written The Independent Many biographies have been written of Robert Louis Stevenson portraying different versions of the famous author from the Bohemian dandy outraging Victorian Edinburgh to a writer of stories beloved by children and familiar from numerous film and television dramas In this acclaimed biography Ian Bell attempts to see Robert Louis Stevenson whole to trace the line of descent from the son of Calvinist engineers to the man who ended his days as Tusiata among the Samoan

islanders Understanding that for Stevenson geography mattered Bell sets out to discover the complete man through the places he lived and the people he lived among as well as through the books that poured from him during his all too short literary life As such *Dreams of Exile* is both literary biography and travel narrative It follows Stevenson's development as an artist and as a man by following his often chaotic progress from continent to continent in good health and in bad in poverty and in wealth Along the way it reveals his often tortured relations with his family his robust sexuality and the mystery of his stormy marriage to a woman many years his senior But perhaps Bell's most important contribution is to rescue R L S from the many conflicting and often romanticized images that have continued to surround him and in the process to make a telling case for Stevenson's genius as a writer A biography as readable as a romance A very level headed and well written book

London Review of Books **The Life of Robert Louis Stevenson** Jacqueline M. Overton, 2018-05-07 Excerpt from *The Life of Robert Louis Stevenson For Boys and Girls* In the life of one of Scotland's great men Robert Louis Stevenson we find proud record Of his grandfather Robert Steven son having built Bell Rock Lighthouse on this same spot years afterward About the Publisher Forgotten Books publishes hundreds of thousands of rare and classic books Find more at www.forgottenbooks.com This book is a reproduction of an important historical work Forgotten Books uses state of the art technology to digitally reconstruct the work preserving the original format whilst repairing imperfections present in the aged copy In rare cases an imperfection in the original such as a blemish or missing page may be replicated in our edition We do however repair the vast majority of imperfections successfully any imperfections that remain are intentionally left to preserve the state of such historical works *The Life of Robert Louis Stevenson for Boys and Girls* Jacqueline Overton, 2019-12-02 In *The Life of Robert Louis Stevenson for Boys and Girls* Jacqueline Overton presents a captivating narrative that transports young readers into the world of one of Scotland's most beloved literary figures Through an engaging and accessible style Overton balances biographical detail with imaginative storytelling encouraging children to grasp the themes of adventure and exploration that permeate Stevenson's works The text is rich with anecdotes and vibrant descriptions that not only recount Stevenson's life but also illustrate the period's cultural landscape including Victorian views on adventure and colonialism providing a historical context that enriches the reading experience Jacqueline Overton whose background in literature and her passion for children's education shine through her writing has crafted this biography with the intent to inspire a new generation of readers Her deep appreciation for Stevenson's adventurous spirit and literary contributions is evident drawing on her extensive research and understanding of his influences Overton aims to bridge the gap between Stevenson's complex themes and the curious minds of children making literary history accessible and relatable This book is highly recommended for young readers and educators alike It offers not just an introduction to Robert Louis Stevenson's life but also serves as a springboard for children's imaginative journeys By reading Overton's work students can engage with the foundational stories and themes that have shaped literature while fostering a passion for reading and storytelling Louis Philip Callow, 2001

Doctors called repeatedly to what should have been his deathbed would find a scarecrow twitching and alive A sickly child Louis became in turn a bohemian dandy a literary gypsy traipsing through the mountains of France with a donkey and at twenty eight the lover of an American woman ten years his senior the fabulous Fanny

The Life of Mrs. Robert Louis Stevenson Nellie Van de Grift Sanchez, 1920 Robert Louis Stevenson E. Blantyre Simpson, 2019-12-20 In Robert Louis Stevenson E Blantyre Simpson offers a comprehensive and nuanced exploration of the life and literary contributions of one of Scotland's most cherished authors Simpson employs a biographical approach interwoven with critical analysis delving into Stevenson's varied body of work which includes classics such as *Treasure Island* and *Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* The prose is characterized by its clarity and scholarly rigor rendering complex themes accessible to the general reader while also enriching the understanding of Stevenson's narrative techniques and thematic preoccupations such as duality and adventure Set against the backdrop of the Victorian and Edwardian literary landscape the book situates Stevenson within the broader context of contemporary literary movements illuminating how his experiences shaped his storytelling vision E Blantyre Simpson an eminent literary scholar draws upon extensive research and personal insights to craft this portrait of Stevenson His academic background coupled with a deep seated admiration for Stevenson's adventurous spirit and literary innovation informs this work Drawing on letters personal anecdotes and critical reception Simpson paints a vivid picture of Stevenson's encounters and struggles revealing the complexities behind the author's public persona This book is an invaluable resource for anyone interested in Scottish literature or the broader genre of adventure and horror writing By unearthing both the personal and professional dimensions of Stevenson's life Simpson invites readers to engage with Stevenson not just as an author but as a dynamic individual whose works continue to resonate and inspire It is a must read for scholars students and fans alike In this enriched edition we have carefully created added value for your reading experience Hand picked Memorable Quotes shine a spotlight on moments of literary brilliance Interactive footnotes clarify unusual references historical allusions and archaic phrases for an effortless more informed read

Robert Louis Stevenson Ian Bell, 1992 Fiction is to grown men what play is to the child Robert Louis Stevenson once said in a statement that perfectly captures the magic of his own fiction Immensely popular during his brief life he died in 1894 at the age of forty four he has never lacked for readers since In the century that followed his death many biographies have been written each with its own image of R L S the sickly dreaming child the Bohemian dandy outraging Victorian Edinburgh the romantic wanderer leading his donkey through the wilds of the Cevennes the frail genius doomed to die young For some he is the man of action avid for experience filled with wanderlust for others the writer of stories beloved by children and familiar from innumerable film and television dramas Still others know him as the essayist whose skills matched William Hazlitt's and the novelist to whom even Henry James deferred All of these are R L S but none is the full Stevenson Now in this new and acclaimed biography Ian Bell attempts to see Stevenson whole to trace the line of descent from the son of Calvinist engineers

to the man who ended his days as Tusiata among the Samoan islanders. Understanding that for Stevenson geography mattered, Bell sets out to discover the complete man through the places he lived and the people he lived among as well as through the books that poured from him during his all too short literary life. As such *Dreams of Exile* is both literary biography and travel narrative. It follows Stevenson's development as an artist and as a man by following his often chaotic progress from continent to continent in good health and in bad, in poverty and in wealth. Along the way it reveals his often tortured relations with his family, his robust sexuality, and the mystery of his stormy marriage to a woman many years his senior. But perhaps Bell's most important contribution is to rescue R. L. S. from the many conflicting and often romanticized images that have continued to surround him and in the process to make a telling case for Stevenson's genius as a writer.

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