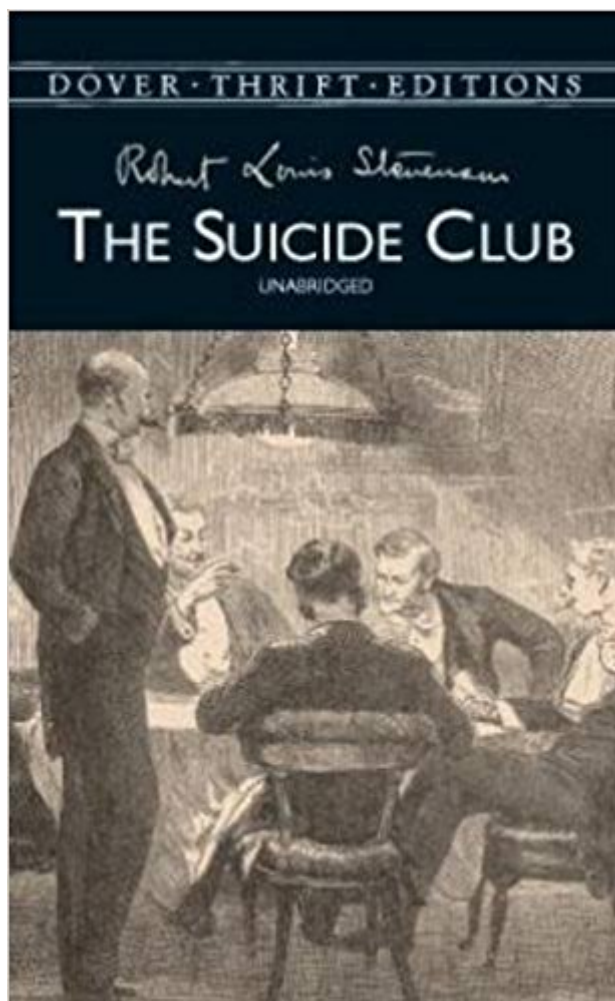


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The Suicide Club (Dover Thrift Editions)



Synopsis

A generous and remarkable young prince, together with his loyal and brave servant, find more adventure than they bargained for in *The Suicide Club*, Robert Louis Stevenson's engrossing trilogy of short stories about a bizarre club for people with a strong desire to end their lives. In these interrelated tales, Prince Florizel of Bohemia and his aide, Colonel Geraldine, travel incognito through some of the most dangerous haunts of 19th-century London. "The Story of the Young Man with the Cream Tarts" introduces Florizel to the formidable Suicide Club, an organization for people who wish to end their lives, but don't have the courage to accomplish the act themselves. The "Story of the Physician and the Saratoga Trunk" reveals the grim contents of a large piece of luggage that travels hundreds of miles to its final destination; and in "The Adventure of the Hansom Cab," a bloody resolution seals the fate of a notorious and elusive assassin. Brimming with heart-stopping drama, this rare, lesser-known work by a master storyteller will appeal to a wide circle of readers, including fans of the great 19th-century English writer as well as lovers of a good mystery story.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Novelist, poet, and travel writer, Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-1894) wrote captivating tales for readers of all ages, including *Treasure Island*, *Kidnapped*, and *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*.

In 1878, Stevenson (1850-1894) included three short stories in this short book of 64 pages. While each can stand alone, they also form a single narrative. The stories are: The Story of the Young Man with Cream Tarts, The Story of the Physician and the Saratoga Trunk, and The Adventure of the Hansom Cabs. One can acquire the book on for free, as I did. The first, for example, is about a very kind and affable prince and his faithful servant, a colonel. The prince was the ruler of a country. He would disguise himself and his aid from time to time in search of an adventure. He met a man who wanted to commit suicide and joined him with his aid, the colonel, to a club where people gathered who wanted to die. The club, run by a president, had a bizarre method of choosing who would be killed on each night and who would do the murder. The prince, seeking a new adventure, decided to join despite the pleadings of the colonel. The other two tales are also very interesting and suspenseful.

I was completely captivated by this story after only a few pages. I usually don't read fantasy, but everyone needs some fantasy occasionally in their life, and this one was a good choice. It could have easily been an episode of The Twilight Zone, which I loved.

This is very much a work reflecting the period in which it was written, i.e, the Victorian Era and the British Empire. It was an enjoyable book (actually a collection of three connected short stories) containing a noble hero and dastardly villain. I read this book because I had seen the movie, "The Suicide Club" starring Robert Montgomery and Rosalind Russell, on Turner Classic Movies, and enjoyed the movie more than the book, which has less action and no romance. Nonetheless, the book reflects a maturity lacking in the movie. Characters on the hero's side die. Prince Florizel, while a prime example of Victorian manhood, is a serious man, aware of his position and its responsibilities (quite unlike the movie's Florizel). Enjoy the book for what it is, a trip to another era more honorable and certain of itself than ours.

There are three stories, and I find the idea of a suicide club to be somewhat novel. Each story was a continuation of the previous story. I think I need to explore Robert Louis Stevenson a little more.

Here are three stories about the adventures of Prince Florizel of Bohemia and his Master of the Horse, Colonel Geraldine, as they concern the Suicide Club.

Quick read, personality study. Not a surprising plot, but enjoyable.

I really liked this book. The way it was set in three different stories and how it ended. Way cool.

It's the concept of a profitable 'Suicide Club' for world-weary gentlemen, oddly resonant in our times of earnest debate over the morality of assisted suicide, of Dr. Kevorkian, that makes this little trilogy of sketches fascinating. RL Stevenson wrote these pieces for a magazine market. They are grizzly emotional pornography, not very well executed as pure literature, not up to the standard of Edgar Allen Poe, who must have been Stevenson's model, but still "unsettling" enough to warrant a half-hour's reading. To summarize the narrative in any way would be to spoil the novelty of discovering the Mr. Hyde who hid his darker psyche in the boy adventurer of Treasure Island. There's a hint of Conan Doyle, and of the swagger of Harry Flashman, in the depiction of Prince Florizel, the protagonist of these stories. No doubt aficionados of the genre will smirk at me for being so flabbergasted by the discovery. I felt roughly the same shock when I stumbled upon the bizarrely obscene pornography written by Roald Dahl, published in the book called 'The Umbrella Man'. Ah, what evils lurk in the heart of Man

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