

THE STORY OF THE DOOR

4 Mr Utterson was a lawyer, and a man of some contradictions. He hardly ever smiled, so he looked rather unfriendly and unwelcoming. But, in company with friends, and at parties, he was quite social and companionable. He did not allow himself many luxuries, and did not spend much money on himself at all. Although he enjoyed fine wines, he did not drink them when alone. He enjoyed the theatre, but had not gone to see a play for twenty years. However, he was happy to see others enjoy themselves, and did not complain or criticize them for allowing an excess of pleasure in their lives. Because of this he was often one of the last respectable friends of men who were losing their good reputation and going downwards in society.

He could be called modest, for he was good-natured to his friends and did not expect them to follow his example. He accepted them as they were, faults and all. His companions were usually distant relations from his own family, or friends that he had known for a long time. You could say that he did not choose his friends, but they gradually collected around him in time, like ivy grows on a tree.

One friend in particular was Mr Richard Enfield, a distant relative, and a well-known man in the city of London. The two men were very different, but they always went for a long Sunday walk together.

Glossary

- **companionable:** happy to be with people
- **contradictions:** opposite ideas or tendencies
- **criticize:** tell someone they have done wrong
- **faults:** weaknesses; bad points
- **fine:** good quality
- **ivy:** a climbing plant
- **lawyer:** person who looks after other people's legal problems
- **reputation:** what people say and think of you