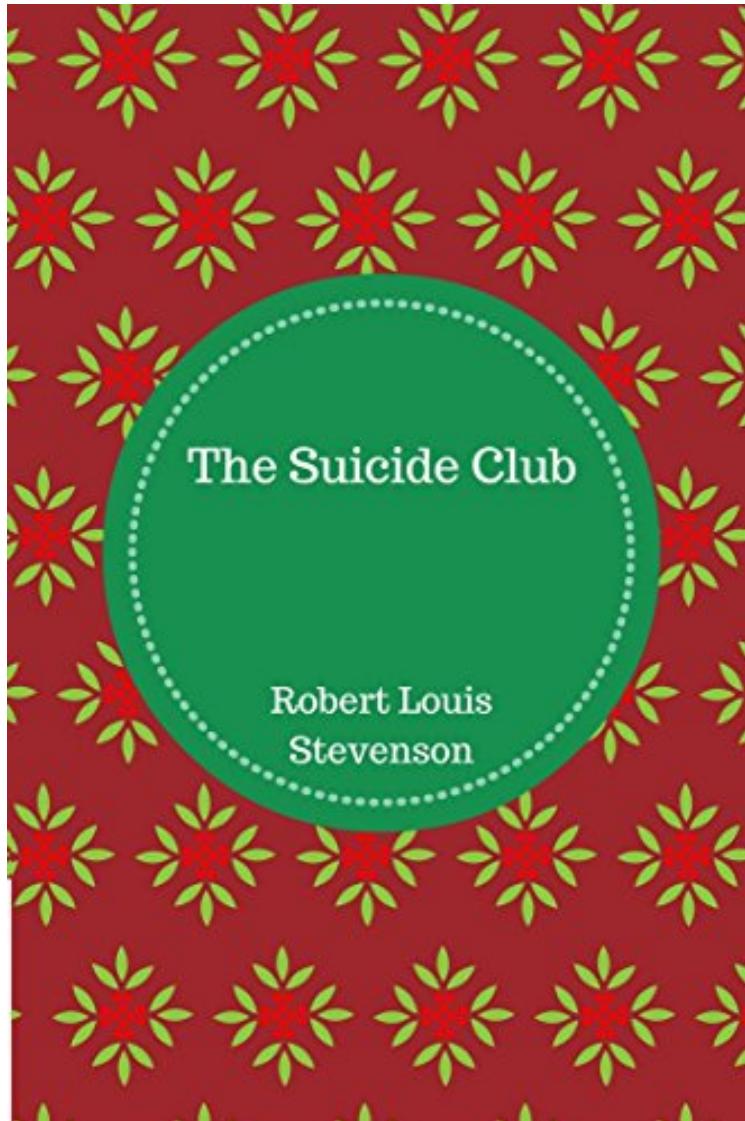


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## The Suicide Club

*Robert Louis Stevenson*

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**Robert Louis Stevenson : The Suicide Club** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Suicide Club:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Fun ReadBy PalmettoI 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.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An Interesting Book from the Victorian EraBy Frank DaleThis 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.<sup>2</sup> of 2 people found the following review helpful. There are three stories, and I find the idea ...By Sylvia T. OwenThere 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.

Novelist and essayist, was born at Edinburgh, the son of Thomas Stevenson, a distinguished civil engineer. His health was extremely delicate. He was destined for the engineering profession, in which his family had for two generations been eminent, but having neither inclination nor physical strength for it, he in 1871 exchanged it for law, and was called to the Bar in 1875, but never practised. From childhood his interests had been literary, and in 1871 he began to contribute to the Edinburgh University Magazine and the Portfolio. A tour in a canoe in 1876 led to the publication in 1878 of his first book, *An Inland Voyage*. In the same year, *The New Arabian Nights*, afterwards separately published appeared in magazines, and in 1879 he brought out *Travels with a Donkey in the Cevennes*. In that year he went to California and married Mrs. Osbourne. Returning to Europe in 1880 he entered upon a period of productiveness which, in view of his wretched health, was, both as regards quantity and worth, highly remarkable. The year 1881 was marked by his unsuccessful candidature for the Chair of Constitutional Law and History at Edinburgh, and by the publication of *Virginibus Puerisque*. Other works followed in rapid succession. *Treasure Island* [1882], *Prince Otto* and *The Child's Garden of Verse* [1885], *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* and *Kidnapped* [1886], *Underwoods* (poetry), *Memories and Portraits* (essays), and *The Merry Men*, a collection of short stories [1887], and in 1888 *The Black Arrow*. In 1887 he went to America, and in the following year visited the South Sea Islands where, in Samoa, he settled in 1890, and where he died and is buried. In 1889 *The Master of Ballantrae* appeared, in 1892 *Across the Plains* and *The Wrecker*, in 1893 *Island Nights Entertainments* and *Catriona*, and in 1894 *The Ebb Tide* in collaboration with his step-son, Mr. Lloyd Osbourne. By this time his health was completely broken, but to the last he continued the struggle, and left the fragments *St. Ives* and *Weir of Hermiston*, the latter containing some of his best work. They were published in 1897. Though the originality and power of Stevenson's writings was recognised from the first by a select few, it was only slowly that he caught the ear of the general public. The tide may be said to have turned with the publication of *Treasure Island* in 1882, which at once gave him an assured place among the foremost imaginative writers of the day. His greatest power is, however, shown in those works which deal with Scotland in the 18th century, such as *Kidnapped*, *Catriona*, and *Weir of Hermiston*, and in those, e.g., *The Child's Garden of Verse*, which exhibit his extraordinary insight into the psychology of child-life; *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* is a marvellously powerful and subtle psychological story, and some of his short tales also are masterpieces. Of these *Thrawn Janet* and *Will of the Mill* may be mentioned as examples in widely different kinds.

About the Author Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-1894) was a novelist, poet, short-story writer, and essayist. In 1883, while bedridden with tuberculosis, he wrote what would become one of the best known and most beloved collections of children's poetry in the English language, *A Child's Garden of Verses*. *Block City* is taken from that collection. Stevenson is also the author of such classics as *Treasure Island*, *Kidnapped*, and *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*.