

Solitude

'I could be **invisible**!

I turned down the gas again, stepped out of the window on the cistern cover, very softly lowered the sash, and sat down, secure and **invisible**, but quivering with anger, to watch events.

I stopped the gas engine, felt for and stroked the beast, which was still insensible, and then, being tired, left it sleeping on the **invisible** pillow and went to bed.

Invisible.

Is there such a thing as an **invisible** animal? my feet hurt exceedingly and **I** was lame from a little cut on one foot. **I** stood up too. **I** found I had caught a fresh cold, and had to turn out after a time lest my sneezes should attract attention. **I** let the whole down with a smash on the cabman, and then, with shouts and the clatter of feet about me, people coming out of shops, vehicles pulling up, I realised what I had done for myself, and cursing my folly, backed against a shop window and prepared to dodge out of the confusion. **I** contrived to enter, and walking down the shop--it was a department where they were selling ribbons and gloves and stockings and that kind of thing--came to a more spacious region devoted to picnic baskets and wicker furniture. **I** gritted my teeth and stayed there to the end. It was late at night--in the daytime one was bothered with the gaping, silly students--and **I** worked then sometimes till dawn. 'I am disfigured,' **I** said. **I** had to do my work under frightful disadvantages. **I** couldn't think of any other way of doing it. **I** have it still. **I** must get steady a bit. In one room next to his **I** found a lot of old clothes. **I** have no taste for politics, for the blackguardisms of fame, for philanthropy, for sport. **I** had made up my mind, I suppose, to get away in them, and that ruled me. **I** gather it was a secret. **I** heard a miaow behind me, and turning, saw a lean white cat, very dirty, on the cistern cover outside the window. when the clock-mending is over, **I** think I should like to have some tea. **I** could have dropped. **I** took some brandy and water, and then went up past my impromptu bag--he was lying quite still--to the room containing the old clothes. In a moment **I** should be wedged into a crowd and inevitably discovered. **I** was half minded to hit his silly countenance, but I arrested my doubled fist. If **I** can lay my hands on him! ' **I** said. **I** told him to get out. **I** was weak and very hungry. altogether **I** had barely twenty pounds left in the world, for the most part in a bank--and I could not afford that. **I** saw pretty clearly this was a transient mood, due to overwork and want of sleep, and that either by drugs or rest it would be possible to recover my energies.

Multitude

Ay, we'll just **ask** ye when we want ye,' said she, and shut the door in my face.

I understand that it was on a professional matter that you wished to **speak** to me?

did your butler ever **ask** you such a question?

It was only a line **asking** me to join him when he made the sign to me to do so.

' **I asked** as she entered.

As he **spoke** we came round the curve of the avenue, and saw in the fading light that every blind in the house had been drawn down.

that you have really left me very few questions to **ask**.

She told me to **ask** you.

She died just two years ago, and it is of her death that I wish to **speak** to you.

It was not the first time that she had **spoken** to us of her husband's trouble, to me as a doctor, to my wife as an old friend and school companion.

As he **spoke** he opened a door and showed the way into a room which appeared to be very richly furnished, but again the only light was afforded by a single lamp half-turned down.

For how long, may I **ask**, do you want this sum? answered the other, making obvious efforts to pull himself **together**, and licking his dry lips before he spoke. though they had some legal **bother** and a considerable sum to pay before they were allowed to retain it. As you **both** locked your doors at night, your rooms were unapproachable from that side. We'll call a cab and go **together**. The state-room was next the cabin, and we flocked in there and flopped down on the settees, all speaking **together**, for we were just mad with the feeling that we were free once more. Well, they ought to be, but they've had a lawsuit for some years which has sucked the blood out of **both** of them, I fancy. I wish you were all at the devil **together**. I had no doubt that the gang of roughs who assaulted me had carried off **both** my hat and the bird.

Empathy

I vs He

He hesitated.

I judged then that the children of that time were extremely precocious, physically at least, and I found afterwards abundant verification of my opinion.

At first **I** scarce thought of stopping, scarce thought of anything but these new sensations.

He jumped up in such a hurry that he tipped over the jury-box, upsetting all the jurymen on to the heads of the crowd below.

' **He** added in a tone of delight, and his heart began to beat quick with excitement as he went on.

He stared round the room.

He watched him a little anxiously as he took it.
whether **I** can see it or not!
I felt I lacked a clue.
I shivered, and a deadly nausea seized me.
I could not even satisfy myself whether or not she breathed.
Like this, you know--' **He** let go the bridle, and stretched out both his arms to show Alice what he meant, and this time he fell flat on his back, right under the horse's feet.
So far as **I** could see, all the world displayed the same exuberant richness as the Thames valley.
He went on growing and growing and very soon he had to kneel down on the floor.
Looking back presently, **I** could see, through the crowded stems, that from my heap of sticks the blaze had spread to some bushes adjacent, and a curved line of fire was creeping up the grass of the hill.
No, indeed,' **I** said, a little anxiously.
I thought of the Time Traveller limping painfully upstairs.
I couldn't see who was sitting beyond the Beetle, but a hoarse voice spoke next.
Like this, you know--' **He** let go the bridle, and stretched out both his arms to show Alice what he meant, and this time he fell flat on his back, right under the horse's feet.
He hesitated.
He gets more and more like a porcupine every minute!
He was a little startled, however, when he heard the voice of the Duchess close to his ear.
There were other signs of removal about, with queer narrow footprints like those **I** could imagine made by a sloth.
It'll be easy enough to get through--' **He** was up on the chimney-piece while he said this, though he hardly knew how he had got there.
He stopped, held out his glass for more, and took it off at a draught.
He always seemed to me, I fancy, more human than he was, perhaps because his affection was so human.
Said **I** loudly.
I am absolutely certain there was no trickery.
I knew it was the Rabbit coming to look for her and she trembled till she shook the house, quite forgetting that she was now about a thousand times as large as the Rabbit and had no reason to be afraid of it.
I was very glad to find her in such a pleasant temper.

I or He vs I and He

I had first seen the place on a moist afternoon when distances are deceptively diminished and **He** was a little startled, however, when he heard the voice of the Duchess close to his ear.
I said at last and **He** struck me as being a very beautiful and graceful creature, but indescribably frail.
I carefully lowered Weena from my shoulder as **I** halted, and sat down upon the turf.
If your Majesty will only tell me the right way to begin, I'll do it as well as **I** can and **He** was part of my dream, of course--but then I was part of his dream, too!
This is the driest thing **I** know.
And then **I** remembered that strange terror of the dark and It'll be easy enough to get through--' **He** was up on the chimney-piece while he said this, though he hardly knew how he had got there.
Then **I** saw the thing was really a monstrous crab-like creature and **He** took down a jar from one of the shelves as he passed.
She was now working with fourteen pairs at once, and **I** couldn't help looking at her in great astonishment and **He** took up the lamp, and, in an absolute silence, we returned to the smoking-room.
Yet her distress when **I** left her was very great, her expostulations at the parting were sometimes frantic, and **I** think, altogether, I had as much trouble as comfort from her devotion.
I wonder what'll become of MY name when I go in?
for **I** never was so small as this before, never!
but this phantasm vanished as **I** rubbed my eyes and **He** struck me as being a very beautiful and graceful creature, but indescribably frail.
so **I** sat down again, took off my shoes, and flung them away.
Weena, **I** was glad to find, was fast asleep and **He** said it to the Knave of Hearts, who only bowed and smiled in reply.
And then **I** remembered that strange terror of the dark and **He** was dressed in tin armour, which seemed to fit him very badly, and he had a queer-shaped little deal box fastened across his shoulder, upside-down, and with the lid hanging open.
I began to recognise our own pretty and familiar architecture, the thousands hand ran back to the starting-point, the night and day flapped slower and slower.
I do not know how long **I** sat peering down that well.
At the sight of him **I** suddenly regained confidence and **He** can't do sums a BIT!
At last, some time before **I** stopped, the sun, red and very large, halted motionless upon the horizon, a vast dome glowing with a dull heat, and now and then suffering a momentary extinction and **He** was close behind it when he turned the corner, but the Rabbit was no longer to be seen.
I had been restless, dreaming most disagreeably that I was drowned, and that sea anemones were feeling over my face with their soft palps and **He** looked at the Medical Man.
Presently **I** thought what a fool I was to get wet and **He** gets more and more like a porcupine every minute!
I wish Queens never asked questions,' **I** thought to myself.
May **I** have them?

I was silent.
This is the driest thing **I** know.
At last, some time before **I** stopped, the sun, red and very large, halted motionless upon the horizon, a vast dome glowing with a dull heat, and now and then suffering a momentary extinction and **He** was close behind it when he turned the corner, but the Rabbit was no longer to be seen.
I was more and more puzzled and **He** tucked his arm affectionately into Alice's and they walked off together.
What strange developments of humanity, what wonderful advances upon our rudimentary civilisation, **I** thought, might not appear when I came to look nearly into the dim elusive world that raced and fluctuated before my eyes!
In hopes some bees may make a nest in it--then **I** should get the honey and It'll be easy enough to get through--' **He** was up on the chimney-piece while he said this, though he hardly knew how he had got there.
For my own part **I** was unable to come to a conclusion.

You vs I or He

How are **you** getting on?
should advise **you** to walk the other way.
One side will make **you** grow taller, and the other side will make you grow shorter.
What tremendously easy riddles **you** ask!
As the eastern sky grew brighter, and the light of the day came on and its vivid colouring returned upon the world once more, **I** scanned the view keenly.
Do **you** know the lid's open?
He put down your glass, and walked towards the staircase door.
I considered a little.
but if they DO come, **I** don't choose to have them running all about.
He looked at the Medical Man.
a serpent, **I** tell you!
Where did **you** really get them?
--meaning that they'd lost their way, **you** know.
For all **I** knew, I might be facing back towards the Palace of Green Porcelain.
Swinging myself in, **I** found it was the aperture of a narrow horizontal tunnel in which I could lie down and rest.
but this phantasm vanished as **I** rubbed my eyes.
When **I** had started with the Time Machine, I had started with the absurd assumption that the men of the Future would certainly be infinitely ahead of ourselves in all their appliances.
What do **you** mean by that?
L, **I** KNOW it begins with L!
My iron bar still gripped, **I** followed in the Morlocks' path.
He smiled quietly, in your old way.
In the matter of sepulture, for instance, **I** could see no signs of crematoria nor anything suggestive of tombs.
You're thinking about something, my dear, and that makes **you** forget to talk.
I looked at it with great curiosity.
What shall **I** repeat to her?
I do not remember all I did as the moon crept up the sky.
He did not venture to go near the house till you had brought yourself down to nine inches high.
He is such a dear, quiet thing.
though it's all humbug, **you** know.
And here **I** had not a little hope of useful discoveries.

We

altogether **I** had barely twenty pounds left in the world, for the most part in a bank--and We could not afford that.
I sat on the head of the staircase until his return.
I remember the snowstorm now, and the accursed bother it were to keep the snow from damping our pasteboard nose.
I'm in a devilish scrape--I've been mad, **I** think.
I don't mean no manner of speaking.
I whipped out some chloroform, applied it, and answered the door.
I told no living soul, because We meant to flash our work upon the world with crushing effect and become famous at a blow.
I had not expected the suffering.
I had to do our work under frightful disadvantages.
I developed the nurse idea, and all the while kept our eyes open.
We could scarcely believe **I** had done it.
I were thinking only last night of the sea larvae and all jelly-fish!
It were late at night--in the daytime one were bothered with the gaping, silly students--and **I** worked then sometimes till dawn.
I went and stared at nothing in our shaving-glass, at nothing save where an attenuated pigment still remained behind the retina of our eyes, fainter than mist.
I left the filtering We were doing, and went and stared out of the great window at the stars.

for **I** remembered, though not very distinctly where, that some theatrical costumiers had shops in that district.
I appreciated our loss of sympathy, but We put it down to the general inanity of things.
And then **I** had a brilliant idea.
I must have a confederate.
I are a fairly strong man, and We have the poker handy--besides being invisible.
I decided to treat ourselves to a sumptuous feast, and then put up at a good hotel, and accumulate a new outfit of property.
I couldn't think of any other way of doing it.
I have it still.
it's not particularly pleasant recalling that **I** were an ass.
We swear **I** didn't.
I made no plans in the street.
Didn't **I** hear the window?
I went into a place and were already ordering lunch, when it occurred to us that We could not eat unless We exposed our invisible face.
I shut the door, locked it, and went to the looking-glass.
I just managed to get by him.
I simply would not publish, and let him share our credit.
I do not wish to be disturbed in our work.
I thought We were killing ourselves and We did not care.
and **I** must also have those three books.
and **I** are the bait.
I gather it were a secret.
I put our hand into the emptiness, and there were the thing as solid as ever.
I took up the question of pigments to fill up certain gaps.
And after three years of secrecy and exasperation, **I** found that to complete it were impossible--impossible.
My last thoughts before sleeping were the most agreeable **I** had had since the change.
I left it open, and walked round a bare costume stand, into a corner behind a cheval glass.
I began to tremble and do things hurriedly.
I saw in time a blind man approaching me, and fled limping, for We feared his subtle intuitions.
I heard a stealthy footstep and, looking up just in time, saw him peering in at the tumbled heap and holding an old-fashioned revolver in his hand.
I looked about us at the hillside, with children playing and girls watching them, and tried to think of all the fantastic advantages an invisible man would have in the world.
, agreed with the old lady that **I** were a vivisectionist.
In a flash **I** saw our course.
I could take our money where We found it.
I could scarcely move because of his alertness, and there were a draught down our back.
I can't.
I made a step, the boy started back with an exclamation, and with a rapid movement We swung ourselves over into the portico of the next house.
I were beginning to feel frightened.
but **I** can imagine it.
I need help.
It's wild--but **I** suppose We may drink.
I found ourselves in our bedstead storeroom again, and at the end of a wilderness of wardrobes.
I clean forgot it.
I realised that problem were solved.

Death

and **death** be all that we can rightly depend on.
We are deeper in **death** at this moment than if the weight of an earthly grave lay heavy upon me!
and then We must go back to **death**--or worse!
Inured as We were to sick beds and **death**, this suspense grew, and grew upon me.
your names adored, as belonging to brave men who encountered **death** for honour, and the benefit of mankind.
but We feel ourselves justified in desiring the **death** of our adversary.
it moulded our feelings, and allowed us to be calculating and calm, at periods when otherwise delirium or **death** would have been our portion.
and on it We will consecrate ourselves, in life or **death**, to the happiness of our cousin.
that you will seek him, and satisfy our vengeance in his **death**.
and that consoles me, going as We are to suffer ignominy and **death**.
It appeared to us sacrilege so soon to leave the repose, akin to **death**, of the house of mourning, and to rush into the thick of life.
this **death** will carry despair to him, and a thousand other miseries shall torment and destroy him.
We died.