



# Mary Reilly

By Valerie Martin

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From the acclaimed author of the bestselling *Italian Fever* and award winning *Property*, comes a fresh twist on the classic Jekyll and Hyde story, a novel told from the perspective of Mary Reilly, Dr. Jekyll's dutiful and intelligent housemaid.

Faithfully weaving in details from Robert Louis Stevenson's classic, Martin introduces an original and captivating character: Mary is a survivor—scarred but still strong—familiar with evil, yet brimming with devotion and love. As a bond grows between Mary and her tortured employer, she is sent on errands to unsavory districts of London and entrusted with secrets she would rather not know. Unable to confront her hideous suspicions about Dr. Jekyll, Mary ultimately proves the lengths to which she'll go to protect him. Through her astute reflections, we hear the rest of the classic Jekyll and Hyde story, and this familiar tale is made more terrifying than we remember it, more complex than we imagined possible.

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## Mary Reilly By Valerie Martin Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

From its startling first scene to the final, provocative paragraph, this highly original view of the Jekyll and Hyde story is a feat of narrative engineering. *Mary Reilly* is a housemaid in the Victorian London home of Dr. Henry Jekyll, a thoughtful, silver-haired scientist who, in the eyes of his servants, often overexerts himself in his nearby laboratory; nor are these worries assuaged when "Master" announces he has hired Edward Hyde as an assistant. Mary's remarkable self-possession and intelligence are matched by a commitment to the duties of her station and her devotion to Master, whose weariness seems to worsen. Drawn to her wit and forthrightness, Jekyll establishes a more personal relationship with Mary. Her growing attachment to Master, her ever-so-slowly dawning realization that something is dreadfully wrong and her determined belief in her own good judgment propel the plot with unobtrusive forcefulness. Spare and atmospheric, this story is a dark, absorbing symphony; *Mary Reilly* is an unforgettable character. Martin's ( *The Consolation of Nature ; A Recent Martyr* ) striking imagination grows more powerful with each of her accomplished novels. BOMC featured alternate; QPB selection; film rights to Guber-Peter/Warner Bros. Copyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From Library Journal

This retelling of the enigmatic Dr. Jekyll-Mr. Hyde tale deserves praise for suspense, character creation, and historical verisimilitude. *Mary Reilly*, a loyal, trusted servant in the household of Dr. Jekyll records in her diary the mysterious circumstances which lead to her Master's tragic fate. The hierarchy of social classes, relationships among servants and domestics, and details of language and dress enhance this marvelous re-creation with the realism of Dickens. Mary represents the apex of devotion, goodness, and honesty, in contrast to the dual nature and complexity of Dr. Jekyll, whose shadow side threatens to destroy all bounds of decency, law, and order. Less convincing is the tinge of romance between Mary and Jekyll. Most compelling is a forceful consciousness about the dual propensity of human nature and the awesome power which is ours. BOMC featured alternate; Quality Paperback Book Club selection. Previewed in Prepub Alert, LJ 10/15/89.

- *Addie Lee Bracy, Beaver Coll. Lib., Glenside, Pa.*

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Review

"The generosity with which *Mary Reilly* is imagined, the elegance of Martin's writing and the depth of her engagement with her title character make it a memorable and absorbing experience." —*Chicago Tribune*

"Valerie Martin creates memorable characters: the pompous butler...an unctuous landlord...and the utterly convincing Mary, with a housemaid's eye, a servant's rigorous sense of place-and a sufferer's hard won dignity." —*Newsweek*

"*Mary Reilly* is an achievement-creativity skating exhilaratingly on thin ice." —*The New York Times*

“Mary is a remarkable character.... A marvelous performance.” —*USA Today*

“Haunting.... Powerful.... Mary Reilly's voice...casts a spell from the beginning: we turn the pages, furiously compelled, because we must know more about her.” —*Chicago Sun-Times*

“Entrancing and elegant.... A seamless retelling of the Jekyll and Hyde story that is both a compliment and a complement to the original.” —*The Orlando Sentinel*

“*Mary Reilly* is intensely cinematic, highly dramatic, suspenseful, stirring and entirely absorbing.... *Mary Reilly* is magnificent.” —*The Kansas City Star*

“*Mary Reilly* is a virtuoso work, a meticulously crafted, resplendently written story.... Authentic in its abundance of historical detail, it is also unbounded in Martin's imaginative exploration of the psyche of a young girl.” —*Daily News*

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Jose Carr:**

Do you have favorite book? For those who have, what is your favorite's book? Guide is very important thing for us to learn everything in the world. Each publication has different aim or even goal; it means that book has different type. Some people really feel enjoy to spend their time for you to read a book. They are reading whatever they consider because their hobby is usually reading a book. How about the person who don't like examining a book? Sometime, man or woman feel need book once they found difficult problem or even exercise. Well, probably you should have this Mary Reilly.

#### **Hazel Freese:**

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**Judy Sigmund:**

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