

**THE STORY OF A
LIE: AND
OTHER TALES**

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The Story of a Lie: And Other Tales by Robert Louis Stevenson

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ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON

**THE STORY OF A
LIE: AND
OTHER TALES**

The Story of a Lie

And Other Tales

By

Robert Louis Stevenson



Boston

Herbert B. Turner & Co.

1904


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Miss Sally Fairchild



EDITOR'S PREFACE

 *F* the collection of stories in this volume, *The Story of a Lie* now appears for the first time in book form outside of the subscription editions. It was prepared for publication in 1882, but because of a dispute about the question of copyright the book was withdrawn. The few copies that have been sold from time to time were made up from such sheets as were preserved by the publishers and they are exceedingly rare, one copy, which was sold in 1899, bringing over one hundred and fifty dollars.

The Misadventures of John Nicholson has heretofore been published only in paper covers and in the subscription editions. In it Stevenson makes use of his knowledge of California, acquired under conditions not so favorable as those in which he describes his hero. The story first appeared in the *Christmas Yule-Tide* for 1887.

EDITOR'S PREFACE

The Body-Snatcher was one of a series of stories that Stevenson designated as "crawlers." Strange as it may seem to Americans, it was first published in the *Pall Mall* in 1884, as a Christmas story. Stevenson spoke of it as "blood-curdling enough—and ugly enough—to chill the blood of a Grenadier." The publishers were so well pleased with it that they sent an honorarium which Stevenson thought so excessive that he returned a portion of it. The method of advertising adopted by the *Pall Mall* was not at all to Stevenson's liking and he protested against it. The method was as ghastly as the story itself. Six skulls were made by a theatrical property-man. Six pairs of coffin lids, painted deadly black, with white skulls and cross-bones in the center for relief, were supplied by a carpenter. Six long white surplices were purchased from a funeral establishment. Six sandwich-men were hired at double rates. This procession was suppressed by the police.



FIRST COLLECTED EDITION

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Originally Published

- I The Story of a Lie
New Quarterly Magazine, October, 1879
- II The Misadventures of John Nicholson
Christmas Yule-Tide, 1887
- III The Body-Snatcher
Pall Mall, Christmas Extra, 1884

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