



# Stevenson Under the Palm Trees

*Alberto Manguel*

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In Samoa, Robert Louis Stevenson is languishing with the disease that will soon kill him, when a chance meeting with a mysterious Scottish missionary turns his mind back to his conservative Edinburgh roots. As further meetings with the missionary become increasingly strange, a series of crimes sours the atmosphere.

## Stevenson Under the Palm Trees Details

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Author : Alberto Manguel

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consciousness. He "meets" a Scottish missionary named Baker who talks about the evil lives the Samoan people lead and how a cleansing fire is needed to remove all these temptations. Stevenson sees a beautiful Samoan girl at a festival and the next he hears is that she has been raped and killed. A saloon in town is set on fire with people locked inside and he sees the disappearing Mr. Baker, who tells him that these crimes are the fulfillment of his desires and are necessary for the cleansing of the island. How much do our desires and dreams affect our lives as we actually live it?

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### Adam Stevenson says

Stevenson Under the Palm Trees is a rare example of a book I'd have preferred to be longer. That said, I can imagine the novel longer and it would be like Andrew Millar's Pure or Ingenious Pain, which are regarded as good short books padded out with faff and waffle.

I certainly didn't get the same satisfying hit that I got with They Shoot Horses Don't They, perhaps my wanting more was not to do with length but lack of meatiness. If you were going to do a real life story starring Robert Louis Stevenson, it's only natural (and obvious) to borrow from Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde.

I think that's the key to why this book didn't satisfy - none of the features were ones I couldn't have thought for myself and haven't read some other place. Man tired of his life about to have it turned upside down by stranger - check. White man given intrinsic importance by natives - check. Musing about the importance of storytelling - check. Name drops of famous stories - check. It doesn't matter that these are all elements from his letters, they seem custom built for an okay novella.

The single most striking line was the one made by Stevenson just before he died, 'has my face changed?' - and he really said that.

Not a bad book in any way, perfectly enjoyable to read but in no way special.

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### Ahmed Ibrahim says

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### Jae says

A dark novella that echoes RSL's own work. The flowers, the music, the sensuality of life on the Samoan island drip from the pages of the book. Illustrated with some of Stevenson's own woodcuts.

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### Seher Andaç says

H?mmm çok leziz:) Dünyan?n tüm tusitala'lar?na selam olsun! Ate?in ba??nday?m gözüml kula??m sizde!👂?



## Fuego Primero says

Robert Louis Stevenson, un hombre que hizo fama de cuentista en Samoa, un buen día un paisano suyo, el Sr. Baker se quiso convertir en el lado perverso de Stevenson y se tomo atribuciones que llevaron a un extremo todos los hechos que ocurrieron.

El primer hecho trascendental que ocurrió en Samoa fue la muerte de una adolescente de 14 años, luego un incendio a un bar y por ultimo la incriminación de Stevenson como el autor de dichos crímenes.

Hasta aquí todo estuvo bien pero cuando se descubrió que era el Sr. Baker quien cometió los crímenes antes mencionados, he allí donde no estuvo bien estructurado dicha revelación; no quedo claro si el Sr. Baker pago por sus crímenes, es una historia corta que fue inspirada de unas cartas; a mi parecer la trama estuvo muy floja.

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## Sarah Khaled says

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