

# heart of darkness by joseph conrad summary

**\*\*Heart of Darkness by Joseph Conrad Summary: Exploring the Depths of Colonialism and Human Nature\*\***

**heart of darkness by joseph conrad summary** offers readers a gripping journey into the complexities of colonialism, morality, and the human psyche. This novella, first published in 1899, has captivated literary enthusiasts and scholars for generations due to its rich symbolism, haunting narrative style, and profound themes. Whether you're encountering Joseph Conrad's work for the first time or revisiting its shadowy depths, understanding the core plot and the underlying messages is essential to appreciating why *\*Heart of Darkness\** remains a cornerstone of English literature.

## Overview of the Story

At its surface, *\*Heart of Darkness\** is the story of a man named Marlow who recounts his voyage into the African Congo, then under European colonial rule. The narrative unfolds as Marlow tells a group of men aboard a boat anchored on the River Thames about his expedition to locate Kurtz, an ivory trader of enigmatic reputation. The journey is not just geographical but profoundly psychological, exposing the darkness that resides both in colonial exploitation and within the human soul.

## The Journey into the Congo

Marlow's journey begins when he takes a steamboat up the Congo River, tasked with finding Kurtz, a man revered for his success in ivory trading. However, as Marlow travels deeper into the jungle, he witnesses the brutal realities of imperialism: exploitation, cruelty, and the collapse of European ideals. The lush wilderness contrasts sharply with the savage treatment of the native people, hinting at the hypocrisy and moral ambiguity of so-called "civilization."

## Who is Kurtz?

Kurtz is a central figure in the novella, representing both the heights of human ambition and the depths of moral decay. He is portrayed as a gifted orator and an idealist who sought to bring “enlightenment” to the African interior but has instead become consumed by power and madness. Marlow’s fascination with Kurtz grows as he learns more about his descent into savagery, culminating in their haunting encounter near the end of the story.

## Thematic Exploration in Heart of Darkness by Joseph Conrad

### Summary

Beyond the plot, *Heart of Darkness* probes several profound themes that continue to resonate today. Here’s a closer look at some of the key ideas woven through the narrative:

### Colonialism and Its Critique

One of the most prominent themes in *Heart of Darkness* is a critical examination of European colonialism. Conrad exposes the brutal exploitation and hypocrisy behind the imperialist mission. The supposed “civilizing” efforts are revealed to be a facade for greed and inhumanity, with native populations suffering immensely at the hands of European traders and officials. This critique was groundbreaking at the time and remains a central discussion point in postcolonial studies.

### The Darkness Within

The title itself is symbolic, referring not only to the unexplored African interior but also to the metaphorical darkness within humanity. Marlow’s journey becomes a voyage into the human soul,

revealing how thin the veneer of civilization can be. Kurtz's degeneration symbolizes the potential for corruption and evil that lies dormant in everyone when freed from societal constraints.

## **The Ambiguity of Morality**

Conrad's novella doesn't offer clear-cut heroes or villains. Instead, it presents a morally ambiguous world where characters struggle with their conscience and the consequences of their actions. This complexity invites readers to question the nature of good and evil, especially in the context of power and colonial domination.

## **Literary Style and Narrative Technique**

Understanding Joseph Conrad's writing style helps deepen appreciation for *\*Heart of Darkness\**. The novella is famous for its layered narrative structure and evocative prose.

## **A Frame Narrative**

The story is told through a frame narrative: an unnamed narrator introduces Marlow, who then tells his story. This technique creates a sense of distance and reflection, as readers are aware that the events are being recounted after the fact, adding layers of interpretation and uncertainty.

## **Symbolism and Imagery**

Conrad employs rich symbolism throughout the novella. The river itself is a powerful symbol of the journey into the unknown and the subconscious. Darkness represents not only the African wilderness but also ignorance, evil, and despair. Light and shadow interplay to emphasize the dualities present in

the story—civilization versus savagery, known versus unknown, sanity versus madness.

## Complex and Poetic Language

The prose in *\*Heart of Darkness\** is dense and poetic, filled with vivid descriptions and philosophical musings. This style immerses readers in the oppressive atmosphere of the jungle and the psychological tension experienced by Marlow. The narrative often pauses for reflection, making the novella as much about the internal experience as external events.

## Significance and Impact of Heart of Darkness

Since its publication, *\*Heart of Darkness\** has sparked diverse interpretations and inspired numerous adaptations, from films to theater productions. Its enduring relevance lies in its unflinching examination of imperialism and human nature.

## Influence on Literature and Culture

The novella is frequently studied in academic settings for its narrative innovation and thematic depth. It has influenced writers and filmmakers alike, most notably inspiring Francis Ford Coppola's film *\*Apocalypse Now\**, which transposes the story to the Vietnam War era.

## Controversies and Criticism

Despite its acclaim, *\*Heart of Darkness\** has faced criticism, particularly from postcolonial perspectives. Critics like Chinua Achebe have argued that Conrad's portrayal of Africa and its people reflects racist stereotypes and perpetuates colonial attitudes. These debates have enriched discussions about how

literature represents culture and history.

## Tips for Reading and Understanding Heart of Darkness

\*Heart of Darkness\* can be challenging due to its complex language and layered themes. Here are some tips to help you navigate the novella:

- **Take Your Time:** The dense prose benefits from slow, careful reading to absorb the nuances.
- **Consider Historical Context:** Understanding the era of European imperialism provides insight into the story's setting and critiques.
- **Reflect on Symbolism:** Pay attention to recurring images like darkness, light, and the river to unlock deeper meanings.
- **Discuss and Compare:** Engaging with others or reading critical essays can reveal different interpretations and enrich your understanding.

Exploring \*Heart of Darkness by Joseph Conrad summary\* is not just about knowing what happens in the story but uncovering the complex questions it raises about humanity, power, and morality. Each reading can reveal new layers, making it a timeless work that continues to provoke thought and discussion.

## Frequently Asked Questions

## **What is the main theme of Heart of Darkness by Joseph Conrad?**

The main theme of Heart of Darkness is the exploration of the darkness within human nature and the corrupting influence of imperialism and colonialism.

## **Who is the protagonist in Heart of Darkness?**

The protagonist of Heart of Darkness is Charles Marlow, a seaman and narrator who journeys into the African Congo to find Kurtz.

## **What is the significance of the Congo setting in Heart of Darkness?**

The Congo represents the unknown, chaotic, and uncivilized world that contrasts with European civilization, highlighting the darkness and moral ambiguity of imperialism.

## **How does Joseph Conrad portray imperialism in Heart of Darkness?**

Conrad portrays imperialism as a hypocritical and destructive force that exploits native populations and reveals the darkness and greed inherent in human nature.

## **Who is Kurtz in Heart of Darkness and why is he important?**

Kurtz is a mysterious and influential ivory trader in the Congo whose descent into madness symbolizes the moral decay caused by unchecked power and imperialism.

## **Can you provide a brief summary of Heart of Darkness?**

Heart of Darkness follows Marlow's journey up the Congo River to find Kurtz, an ivory trader. The novella explores themes of darkness, colonialism, and human nature, revealing the horrors and moral ambiguity of imperialism.

## **What narrative technique is used in Heart of Darkness?**

Heart of Darkness uses a frame narrative, where Marlow recounts his story to listeners aboard a boat

on the River Thames, adding layers to the storytelling.

## How does Heart of Darkness end?

Heart of Darkness ends with Marlow returning to Europe and visiting Kurtz's fiancée, choosing to conceal the truth about Kurtz's moral decline, reflecting the complexity of truth and morality.

## Additional Resources

**\*\*Heart of Darkness by Joseph Conrad Summary: An In-Depth Exploration\*\***

heart of darkness by joseph conrad summary provides a window into one of the most compelling and complex works of early 20th-century literature. Joseph Conrad's novella, first published in 1899, delves deeply into colonialism, human nature, and the thin veneer of civilization. This narrative, often described as a psychological and philosophical journey, challenges readers to reflect on the darkness that resides within humanity and the brutal realities of imperialism. Understanding the plot, themes, and literary techniques of \*Heart of Darkness\* is crucial for grasping its lasting impact on literature and its relevance in postcolonial studies.

## Plot Overview of Heart of Darkness by Joseph Conrad

At its core, \*Heart of Darkness\* recounts the story of Charles Marlow, a seaman who undertakes a voyage into the African Congo, then under European colonial exploitation. The plot unfolds as Marlow narrates his experience traveling up the Congo River to find Kurtz, an enigmatic ivory trader reputed for his extraordinary influence over the indigenous people and his mysterious methods.

The narrative is framed as a story within a story, with Marlow recounting his journey aboard a boat anchored on the River Thames. This framing device juxtaposes the familiar world of Victorian England with the alien and unsettling African interior, emphasizing the contrast between civilization and savagery.

Marlow's journey is both physical and symbolic. As he ventures deeper into the jungle, the veneer of European superiority begins to crumble. The journey reveals the moral ambiguity and psychological darkness lurking beneath imperialist rhetoric. The novella culminates in Marlow's encounter with Kurtz, whose descent into madness and moral corruption epitomizes the destructive effects of unchecked power and isolation.

## Major Themes and Symbolism

### Critique of Imperialism

One of the most significant aspects of *Heart of Darkness* is its critical perspective on European colonialism. Conrad exposes the hypocrisy of the so-called "civilizing mission," revealing exploitation, greed, and brutality masked by lofty ideals. The novella illuminates how imperialism dehumanizes both the colonizers and the colonized.

The depiction of the Congo as a dark, impenetrable wilderness serves as a metaphor for the moral and ethical darkness of imperialism. Marlow's observations about the inefficiency and cruelty of the Company's operations highlight the destructive consequences of colonial greed.

### Psychological Exploration of Darkness

Beyond its political commentary, *Heart of Darkness* deeply investigates human nature. The concept of "darkness" operates on multiple levels: physical, moral, and psychological. The journey into the African jungle symbolizes a journey into the subconscious and the primal instincts within every individual.

Kurtz stands as a central figure representing the potential for evil that exists when societal constraints



are removed. His transformation from an idealistic agent of imperialism to a ruthless despot underscores the novella's exploration of madness and moral decay.

## **Ambiguity and Narrative Style**

Conrad employs a complex narrative structure that enhances the novella's themes. The story's layered narration creates a sense of distance and uncertainty, prompting readers to question the reliability of Marlow's account. This ambiguity is pivotal to the text's exploration of truth and perception.

The dense, symbolic language and frequent use of irony challenge readers to engage critically with the narrative. The novella's open-endedness leaves many questions unresolved, encouraging ongoing interpretation and debate.

## **Character Analysis**

### **Charles Marlow**

Marlow serves as the novella's narrator and moral center. His introspective and often skeptical perspective offers insight into the contradictions of imperialism. Marlow's gradual disillusionment reflects the tension between idealism and reality.

### **Kurtz**

Kurtz is a complex and enigmatic figure whose charisma and intellect contrast sharply with his descent into barbarism. He embodies the corrupting influence of power and the fragility of civilization's mask.

## Supporting Characters

The other figures, such as the Manager of the Company and the Russian trader, contribute to the novella's depiction of colonial bureaucracy and madness. Their interactions with Marlow provide additional layers to the critique of imperialism.

## Literary Significance and Impact

*Heart of Darkness* is widely regarded as a masterpiece of modernist literature. Its innovative narrative structure and psychological depth have influenced countless writers and critics. The novella's exploration of colonialism anticipated many postcolonial critiques that emerged later in the 20th century.

Despite its acclaim, *Heart of Darkness* has also sparked controversy, particularly regarding its portrayal of Africa and Africans. Critics like Chinua Achebe have challenged the novella's depiction as Eurocentric and dehumanizing, sparking important discussions about representation and race in literature.

## Comparisons to Other Works

Conrad's novella can be compared to other colonial and postcolonial texts that grapple with similar themes. For instance, it shares thematic concerns with George Orwell's *Shooting an Elephant* and later works like Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o's *Decolonising the Mind*. These comparisons highlight the ongoing relevance of *Heart of Darkness* in understanding colonial legacies.

## Pros and Cons of the Novella's Approach

- **Pros:** Profound psychological insight, innovative narrative style, incisive critique of imperialism.
- **Cons:** Controversial racial representations, ambiguous morality that may confuse readers, complex language that demands close reading.

## Conclusion

The *\*heart of darkness by joseph conrad summary\** reveals a work that is as challenging as it is illuminating. Through Marlow's journey into the Congo, Conrad exposes the contradictions of imperialism and the complexities of human nature. The novella's layered narrative and rich symbolism invite readers to confront uncomfortable truths about civilization and savagery, morality and madness.

In the broader context of literary history, *\*Heart of Darkness\** remains a pivotal text for those interested in colonial studies, psychology, and narrative form. While debates about its racial and cultural portrayals continue, its influence on literature and critical thought is undeniable. Engaging with this novella offers valuable insights into the human condition and the dark corners of history that still resonate today.

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**heart of darkness by joseph conrad summary: Summary of Heart of Darkness by Joseph Conrad** getAbstract AG, 2019-09-17 It's with bated breath that the reader follows the brief but harrowing account of Charlie Marlow, who, in dense prose, recounts his journey up the Congo River and into the heart of Africa – and the “heart of darkness” – for it is also a journey into the dark places of the human soul. In the latter days of European colonialism, Marlow becomes the captain of a run-down steamer for a Belgian trading company. When he arrives in Africa, he hears rumors about a Mr. Kurtz, who reportedly lives (and rules) hundreds of miles upriver. Having a charismatic personality, Kurtz is the most successful trading agent of the company, delivering huge amounts of ivory. Overcoming much adversity, Marlow travels upriver to meet the man – an encounter that leaves a deep and lifelong mark on Marlow. Throughout the novel, author Joseph Conrad's detailed and realistic description of the wilderness and cruel colonial rule stands in contrast to the narrative symbolism of the story. As white men confront a starkly depicted primeval world, Conrad evokes a dark and terrifying image of human nature and creates one of the bleakest narratives on European colonial rule in modern literature. This summary of Heart of Darkness was produced by getAbstract, the world's largest provider of book summaries. getAbstract works with hundreds of the best publishers to find and summarize the most relevant content out there. Find out more at [getabstract.com](http://getabstract.com).

**heart of darkness by joseph conrad summary: Heart of Darkness** Joseph Conrad, 2023-11-14 Heart of Darkness by Joseph Conrad is a gripping exploration of the human soul set against the mysterious backdrop of the African Congo. This novella takes readers on a haunting journey into the depths of human darkness, both in the heart of the African wilderness and within the hearts of its characters. The story follows Marlow, a sailor who embarks on a voyage up the Congo River in search of Kurtz, an enigmatic ivory trader. As Marlow travels deeper into the jungle, he encounters the brutal realities of colonialism, witnessing the cruelty inflicted upon the native population. Conrad's prose is rich and atmospheric, painting a vivid picture of the oppressive and surreal landscape. The narrative delves into themes of imperialism, the corrupting influence of power, and the blurred line between civilization and savagery. Heart of Darkness is a profound and thought-provoking work that challenges readers to confront the darkness that can reside within us all. It's a literary journey that will leave you questioning the depths of human nature and the consequences of unchecked ambition. This classic novella is a must-read for those who appreciate literature that probes the human psyche and explores the moral complexities of our world. ABOUT THE AUTHOR Joseph Conrad, a master of English literature, was born on December 3, 1857, in Berdichev, Ukraine, which was then part of the Russian Empire. His birth name was Józef Teodor Konrad Korzeniowski. His early life was marked by tragedy when his parents, ardent Polish nationalists, were exiled to Russia. Conrad began his seafaring career at a young age, which provided him with the experiences that would later influence his writing. He became a British subject in 1886 and adopted the name Joseph Conrad. He sailed to various parts of the world, including Africa and Southeast Asia, as a merchant mariner. Conrad's literary career began later in life, and English was his third language after Polish and French. Despite this, he is renowned for his command of the English language. Some of his most famous works include Heart of Darkness, Lord Jim, and Nostromo. These novels often explore themes of human nature, imperialism, and moral ambiguity. Heart of Darkness is particularly celebrated for its exploration of the dark heart of colonialism in Africa. It continues to be studied and adapted into various forms of media. Joseph Conrad passed away on August 3, 1924, in England. His writing legacy endures, with his novels regarded as classics of English literature, and his profound exploration of the human psyche and the consequences of imperialism continue to captivate readers worldwide.

**heart of darkness by joseph conrad summary: Heart of Darkness** Joseph Conrad, 2020-07-04 Heart of Darkness by Joseph Conrad Heart of Darkness, a novel by Joseph Conrad, was originally a three-part series in Blackwood's Magazine in 1899. It is a story within a story, following a character named Charlie Marlow, who recounts his adventure to a group of men onboard an anchored ship. The story told is of his early life as a ferry boat captain. Although his job was to transport ivory

downriver, Charlie develops an interest in investing an ivory procurement agent, Kurtz, who is employed by the government. Preceded by his reputation as a brilliant emissary of progress, Kurtz has now established himself as a god among the natives in one of the darkest places on earth. Marlow suspects something else of Kurtz: he has gone mad. A reflection on corruptive European colonialism and a journey into the nightmare psyche of one of the corrupted, *Heart of Darkness* is considered one of the most influential works ever written.

**heart of darkness by joseph conrad summary:** *Heart of Darkness SparkNotes Literature Guide* SparkNotes, Joseph Conrad, 2014-01-30 Contains a complete plot summary and analysis of Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*, as well as discussion of the characters and themes, and includes study questions.

**heart of darkness by joseph conrad summary:** *Heart Of Darkness (Annotated Classic Edition) With Summaries* Joseph Conrad, 2020-04-02 *Heart of Darkness*, a novel by Joseph Conrad, was originally a three-part series in *Blackwood's Magazine* in 1899. It is a story within a story, following a character named Charlie Marlow, who recounts his adventure to a group of men onboard an anchored ship. The story told is of his early life as a ferry boat captain. Although his job was to transport ivory downriver, Charlie develops an interest in investing an ivory procurement agent, Kurtz, who is employed by the government. Preceded by his reputation as a brilliant emissary of progress, Kurtz has now established himself as a god among the natives in one of the darkest places on earth. Marlow suspects something else of Kurtz: he has gone mad. A reflection on corruptive European colonialism and a journey into the nightmare psyche of one of the corrupted, *Heart of Darkness* is considered one of the most influential works ever written.

**heart of darkness by joseph conrad summary: Heart of Darkness SparkNotes Literature Guide** SparkNotes, Joseph Conrad, 2014-04-09 *Heart of Darkness SparkNotes Literature Guide* by Joseph Conrad Making the reading experience fun! When a paper is due, and dreaded exams loom, here's the lit-crit help students need to succeed! SparkNotes Literature Guides make studying smarter, better, and faster. They provide chapter-by-chapter analysis; explanations of key themes, motifs, and symbols; a review quiz; and essay topics. Lively and accessible, SparkNotes is perfect for late-night studying and paper writing. Includes: An A+ Essay—an actual literary essay written about the Spark-ed book—to show students how a paper should be written. 16 pages devoted to writing a literary essay including: a glossary of literary terms Step-by-step tutoring on how to write a literary essay A feature on how not to plagiarize

**heart of darkness by joseph conrad summary: Heart of Darkness** Joseph Conrad, 2017-11-01 *Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad Where does darkness lie strongest in the world? In Joseph Conrad's classic novel, the river captain Charles Marlow tells his tale of work as a steamboat captain for an ivory trading company. As Marlow witnesses delays, tragedies and injustice, he grows more disillusioned with his exploration of the African river. When he meets Mr. Kurtz, the company's agent in charge of an up-river trading post, Marlow is forced to confront the darkness residing in human nature. *Heart of Darkness* has often been listed as one of the 100 Greatest works of English Literature and is one of the most often studied novels in high school and college English courses.

**heart of darkness by joseph conrad summary: Heart of Darkness** Joseph Conrad, 2019-06-06 *Heart of Darkness* is a novella written by Polish-born writer Joseph Conrad (born Józef Teodor Konrad Korzeniowski). Before its 1902 publication, it appeared as a three-part series (1899) in *Blackwood's Magazine*. It is widely regarded as a significant work of English literature and part of the Western canon. This highly symbolic story is actually a story within a story, or frame narrative. It follows Marlow as he recounts, from dusk through to late night, his adventure into the Congo to a group of men aboard a ship anchored in the Thames Estuary. The story details an incident when Marlow, an Englishman, took a foreign assignment as a ferry-boat captain, employed by a Belgian trading company. Although the river is never specifically named, readers may assume it is the Congo River, in the Congo Free State, a private colony of King Leopold II. Marlow is employed to transport ivory downriver; however, his more pressing assignment is to return Kurtz, another ivory trader, to civilization in a cover up. Kurtz has a reputation throughout the region.

**heart of darkness by joseph conrad summary: Heart of Darkness** Joseph Conrad, 2015-03-14

Heart of Darkness is a literary classic written by esteemed Anglo-Polish writer, Joseph Conrad. The story is a complex exploration of the beliefs people hold on what constitutes a barbarian versus a civilized society and the stance on colonialism and racism that was part and parcel of European imperialism. Originally published as a three-part serial story in Blackwood's Magazine, the novella Heart of Darkness has been variously published and translated into many languages. In 1998, the Modern Library ranked Heart of Darkness as the sixty-seventh of the hundred best novels in English of the twentieth century.

**heart of darkness by joseph conrad summary: Heart of Darkness (Fifth Edition) (Norton Critical Editions)** Joseph Conrad, 2016-08-29

"This is the best Norton Critical Edition yet! All my students have become intensely interested in reading Conrad—largely because of this excellent work." —Elise F. Knapp, Western Connecticut State University This Norton Critical Edition includes: - A newly edited text based on the first English book edition (1902), the last version to which Conrad is known to have actively contributed. "Textual History and Editing Principles" provides an overview of the textual controversies and ambiguities perpetually surrounding Heart of Darkness. -

Background and source materials on colonialism and the Congo, nineteenth-century attitudes toward race, Conrad in the Congo, and Conrad on art and literature. - Fifteen illustrations. - Seven contemporary responses to the novella along with eighteen essays in criticism—ten of them new to the Fifth Edition, including an entirely new subsection on film adaptations of Heart of Darkness. - A Chronology and an updated Selected Bibliography.

**heart of darkness by joseph conrad summary: Heart of Darkness** Joseph Conrad,

2017-01-30 Heart of Darkness (1899) is a novella by Polish-British novelist Joseph Conrad, about a voyage up the Congo River into the Congo Free State, in the heart of Africa, by the story's narrator Marlow. Marlow tells his story to friends aboard a boat anchored on the River Thames, London, England. This setting provides the frame for Marlow's story of his obsession with the ivory trader Kurtz, which enables Conrad to create a parallel between London and Africa as places of darkness.. Central to Conrad's work is the idea that there is little difference between so-called civilised people and those described as savages; Heart of Darkness raises questions about imperialism and racism...Summary : Aboard the Nellie, anchored in the River Thames near Gravesend, England, Charles Marlow tells his fellow sailors about the events that led to his appointment as captain of a river steamboat for an ivory trading company. As a child, Marlow had been fascinated by the blank spaces on maps, particularly by the biggest, which by the time he had grown up was no longer blank but turned into a place of darkness (Conrad 10). Yet there remained a big river, resembling an immense snake uncoiled, with its head in the sea, its body at rest curving afar over a vast country and its tail lost in the depths of the land (Conrad 10). The image of this river on the map fascinated Marlow as a snake would a bird (Conrad 10). Feeling as though instead of going to the centre of a continent I were about to set off for the centre of the earth, Marlow takes passage on a French steamer bound for the African coast and then into the interior...Extrait : 'I flew around like mad to get ready, and before forty-eight hours I was crossing the Channel to show myself to my employers, and sign the contract. In a very few hours I arrived in a city that always makes me think of a whited sepulchre. Prejudice no doubt. I had no difficulty in finding the Company's offices. It was the biggest thing in the town, and everybody I met was full of it. They were going to run an over-sea empire, and make no end of coin by trade.'A narrow and deserted street in deep shadow, high houses, innumerable windows with venetian blinds, a dead silence, grass sprouting right and left, immense double doors standing ponderously ajar. I slipped through one of these cracks, went up a swept and ungarnished staircase, as arid as a desert, and opened the first door I came to. Two women, one fat and the other slim, sat on straw-bottomed chairs, knitting black wool. The slim one got up and walked straight at me-- still knitting with downcast eyes--and only just as I began to think of getting out of her way, as you would for a somnambulist, stood still, and looked up. Her dress was as plain as an umbrella-cover, and she turned round without a word and preceded me into a waiting-room. I gave my name, and looked about. Deal table in the middle, plain chairs all round the walls, on one

end a large shining map, marked with all the colours of a rainbow...Biography : Joseph Conrad born at 3 December 1857 - 3 August 1924 was a Polish-British writer regarded as one of the greatest novelists to write in the English language. He joined the British merchant marine in 1878, and was granted British nationality in 1886. Though he did not speak English fluently until his twenties, he was a master prose stylist who brought a non-English sensibility into English literature. He wrote stories and novels, many with a nautical setting, that depict trials of the human spirit in the midst of an impassive, inscrutable universe. Conrad is considered an early modernist, though his works still contain elements of 19th-century realism. His narrative style and anti-heroic characters have influenced many authors, including F. Scott Fitzgerald...

**heart of darkness by joseph conrad summary: Heart Of Darkness** Joseph Conrad, 2019-06-29 Heart of Darkness is a novella written by Polish-born writer Joseph Conrad (born Józef Teodor Konrad Korzeniowski). Before its 1902 publication, it appeared as a three-part series (1899) in Blackwood's Magazine. It is widely regarded as a significant work of English literature and part of the Western canon. This highly symbolic story is actually a story within a story, or frame narrative. It follows Marlow as he recounts, from dusk through to late night, his adventure into the Congo to a group of men aboard a ship anchored in the Thames Estuary. The story details an incident when Marlow, an Englishman, took a foreign assignment as a ferry-boat captain, employed by a Belgian trading company. Although the river is never specifically named, readers may assume it is the Congo River, in the Congo Free State, a private colony of King Leopold II. Marlow is employed to transport ivory downriver; however, his more pressing assignment is to return Kurtz, another ivory trader, to civilization in a cover up. Kurtz has a reputation throughout the region.

**heart of darkness by joseph conrad summary: Joseph Conrad's Heart of Darkness** Harold Bloom, Sterling Professor of Humanities Harold Bloom, 2014-05-14 Discusses the writing of Heart of darkness by Joseph Conrad. Includes critical essays on the work and a brief biography of the author.

**heart of darkness by joseph conrad summary: Heart of Darkness** Joseph Conrad, 2017-07-12 This classic book is always read again and again. What is the classic book? Why is the classic book? READ READ READ.. then you'll know it's so cool.

**heart of darkness by joseph conrad summary: Quicklet: Joseph Conrad's Heart of Darkness (CliffsNotes-like Book Summaries)** Abdul Montaqim, 2012-01-31 ABOUT THE BOOK Quicklets are your reading sidekick -- use this while reading Heart of Darkness to learn more about the book MEET THE AUTHOR Abdul Montaqim is a journalist based in London who has been working in the media since 1989. He has written for The Guardian, Time Out Magazine, and the International Business Times website, among many other publications. EXCERPT FROM THE BOOK Joseph Conrad had already had a long and eventful career as a sailor before turning to writing. This lends an enormous, understated power and authenticity to the telling of the story of a sailor living and working in a world that was in the grip of the great seafaring nations of Europe, whose business activities are symbolically represented by the Company.

**heart of darkness by joseph conrad summary: Heart of Darkness [Annotated]** Joseph Conrad, 2020-11-22 Heart of Darkness (1899) is a novella by Polish-English novelist Joseph Conrad about a narrated voyage up the Congo River into the Congo Free State in the Heart of Africa. Charles Marlow, the narrator, tells his story to friends aboard a boat anchored on the River Thames. This setting provides the frame for Marlow's story of his obsession with the successful ivory trader Kurtz. Conrad offers parallels between London (the greatest town on earth) and Africa as places of darkness. Central to Conrad's work is the idea that there is little difference between civilised people and those described as savages. Heart of Darkness implicitly comments on imperialism and racism.

**heart of darkness by joseph conrad summary: Heart of Darkness** Joseph Conrad, 2015-01-14 Heart of Darkness by Joseph Conrad Joseph Conrad (1857-1924) Joseph Conrad was among the most famous authors of his time in the British empire. He was known for his classic contribution to the literature, especially to the modernist movement. However some of his works were embedding with the fine romanticism tunes he is known as a modernist author rather than a romanticist. Joseph Conrad was born in the Polish family in Kiev region of Russian empire. His town's

name was Terekhove. He regarded himself as a pole or polish throughout his life even after getting British nationality.

**heart of darkness by joseph conrad summary:** *Heart of Darkness* Joseph Conrad, 2017-03-31 *Heart of Darkness* (1899) is a short novel by Polish novelist Joseph Conrad, written as a frame narrative, about Charles Marlow's experience as an ivory transporter down the Congo River in Central Africa. The river is a mighty big river, that you could see on the map, resembling an immense snake uncoiled, with its head in the sea, its body at rest curving afar over a vast country, and its tail lost in the depths of the land. In the course of his travel in central Africa, Marlow becomes obsessed with Mr. Kurtz. The story is a complex exploration of the attitudes people hold on what constitutes a barbarian versus a civilized society and the attitudes on colonialism and racism that were part and parcel of European imperialism. Originally published as a three-part serial story, in *Blackwood's Magazine*, the novella *Heart of Darkness* has been variously published and translated into many languages. In 1998, the Modern Library ranked *Heart of Darkness* as the sixty-seventh of the hundred best novels in English of the twentieth century.

**heart of darkness by joseph conrad summary:** *Joseph Conrad, Heart of Darkness* Joseph Conrad, 2018-08-17 The novella centres on the efforts of Marlow, Conrad's alter ego, to travel up an unnamed African river on behalf of his employer in order to bring back a rogue ivory trader, Mr Kurtz. Kurtz's reputation precedes him: He is a prodigy... an emissary of pity and science and progress. Yet as Marlow gets closer to Kurtz, there is the growing suggestion that he has in some way become corrupted and descended into savagery. The further upstream Marlow gets, the more intense the sense of impending danger, with cryptic warnings and a bloody ambush ratcheting up the tension. When Marlow finally reaches Kurtz's camp, he discovers a scene of unimaginable depravity. The dying Kurtz is taken aboard the boat (along with a prodigious quantity of ivory), but he does not survive the journey back downstream. With Marlow present, his chilling last words are The horror! The horror!

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