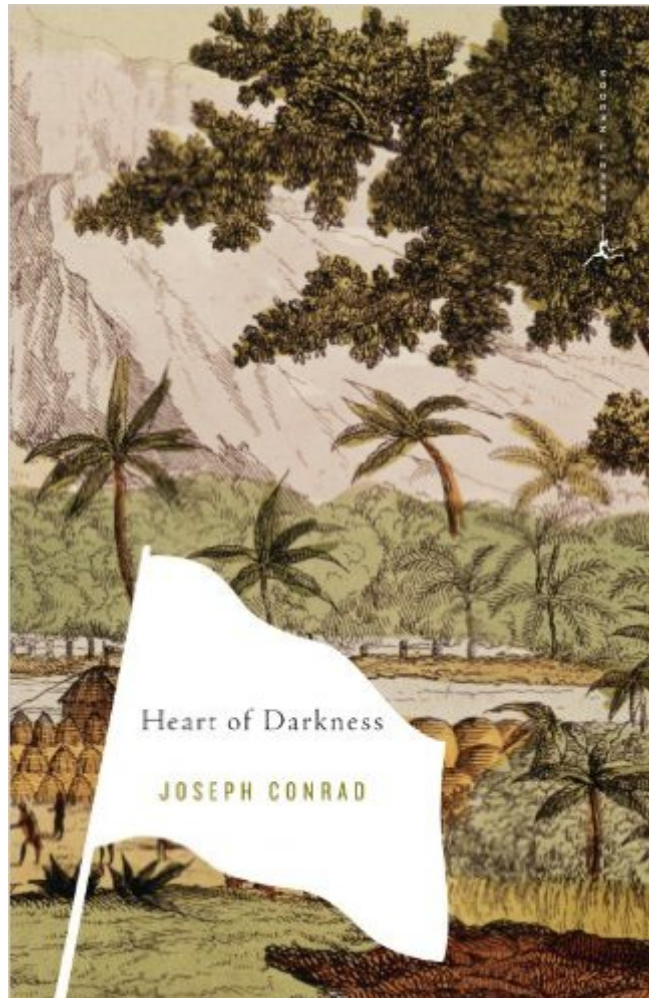


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Heart Of Darkness & Selections From The Congo Diary



Synopsis

Selected by the Modern Library as one of the 100 best novels of all timeIntroduction by Caryl PhillipsCommentary by H. L. Mencken, E. M. Forster, Virginia Woolf, Ernest Hemingway, Bertrand Russell, Lionel Trilling, Chinua Achebe, and Philip GourevitchOriginally published in 1902, *Heart of Darkness* remains one of this century's most enduring works of fiction. Written several years after Joseph Conrad's grueling sojourn in the Belgian Congo, the novel is a complex meditation on colonialism, evil, and the thin line between civilization and barbarity. This edition contains selections from Conrad's Congo Diary of 1890—the first notes, in effect, for the novel, which was composed at the end of that decade. Virginia Woolf wrote of Conrad: "His books are full of moments of vision. They light up a whole character in a flash. . . . He could not write badly, one feels, to save his life."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

With an Introduction by Caryl PhillipsCommentary by H.L. Mencken, E.M. Forster, Virginia Woolf, Ernest Hemingway, Bertrand Russell, Chinua Achebe, and Philip Gourevitch "Heart of Darkness," which appeared at the very beginning of our century, was a Cassandra cry announcing the end of Victorian Europe, on the verge of transforming itself into the Europe of violence," wrote the critic Czeslaw Milosz. Originally published in 1902, *Heart of Darkness* remains one of this century's most enduring--and harrowing--works of fiction. Written several years after Conrad's grueling sojourn in the Belgian Congo, the novel tells the story of Marlow, a seaman who

undertakes his own journey into the African jungle to find the tormented white trader Kurtz. Rich in irony and spellbinding prose, *Heart of Darkness* is a complex meditation on colonialism, evil, and the thin line between civilization and barbarity. This edition contains selections from Conrad's Congo Diary of 1890--the first notes, in effect, for the novel which was composed at the end of that decade. Virginia Woolf wrote of Conrad, "His books are full of moments of vision. They light up a whole character in a flash. . . . He could not write badly, one feels, to save his life."

Jospeh Conrad (1897-1924) grew up amid political unrest in Russian-occupied Poland. After twenty years at sea with the French and British merchant navies, he settled in England in 1894. Over the next three decades he revolutionized the English novel with works such as *Typhoon* (1902), *Youth* (1902), *Nostromo* (1904), *The Secret Agent* (1907), *Under Western Eyes* (1911), *Chance* (1913), and *Victory* (1915). Caryl Phillips is the author of many works of fiction and nonfiction. His novel *A Distant Shore* won the Commonwealth Writers' Prize and was a finalist for the PEN/Faulkner Award. His other awards include the Martin Luther King Memorial Prize, a Guggenheim Fellowship, and the James Tait Black Memorial Prize. Phillips is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and lives in New York City.

Several layers of meaning, based on historical fact, and readers left to draw conclusions. Thought provoking, insightful, and yet mysterious- fully enjoyable. Should be read more than once.

It's a great read if you are into old literature that has made it's mark in history. It's worth buying.

Not the best read, but the characters are well developed and has some interesting takes on imperialism.

Book was in great condition. Thank you.

Just what i needed.

Great read.

A classic thought-provoking book on how ambition and the absence of moral constraints can lead to great evil. Martin Scorsese's "APOCALYPSE NOW" was based on this book.

I've had to read this for a few classes and I'm not a huge fan. The writing is a bit dense. I'm not particularly knowledgeable about literature, but I know there's quite a bit of analysis to be done here. I see this as more of a personal preference thing- I'd rather be reading Louise Gluck or Tracy Brimhall, that's all.

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