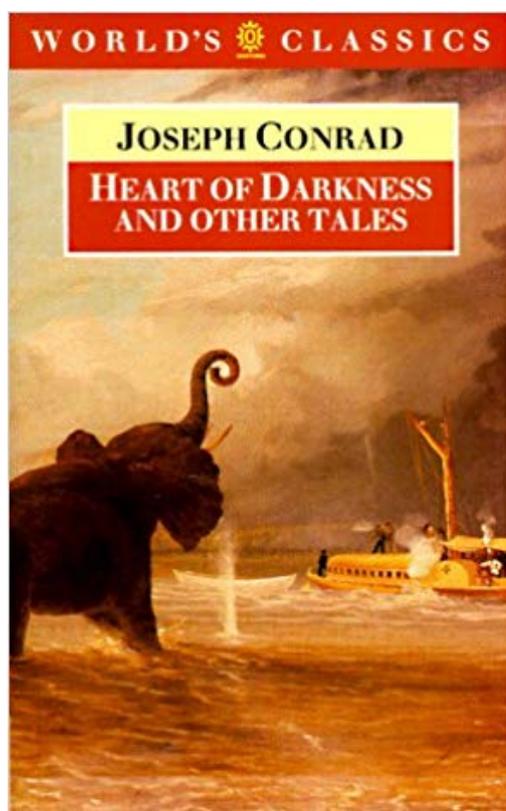


Heart of Darkness and Other Tales (The World's Classics) by Cedric Watts, Joseph Conrad



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Reviews of the Heart of Darkness and Other Tales (The World's Classics) by Cedric Watts, Joseph Conrad

Yndanol

Heart of Darkness is a classic novel that was an almost direct assault on (English) trading company methods and the greater concept of Imperialism, itself. Conrad constructs his novel with many sets of 3, channeling the three parts of Dante's Inferno / The Divine Comedy, and tells it in a "chinese box" fashion, featuring a set of stories within stories. The novel begins on board the Nellie on the Thames River, with Marlow beginning to tell his own story to his mariner companions. With great attention to the sea, personification of the jungle, and the greater idea of human restraint

corresponding to its environment, Marlow recounts his memories of traveling down the Congo River under a Belgian Trading Company and the examples of humanity he encounters there. His prime example is a figure named Kurtz, who, although intelligent, musically gifted, and persuasive, loses all of his restraint along with himself in the heart of the Africa, leaving a lasting image of him being, "hollow to the core." Kurtz only realizes the evils and extreme wrongs that took place in Africa at the moment before his death, exclaiming, "The horror, the horror!" Was he (and/or Conrad) referring to Kurtz's own deeds, the Company's futility and exploitation, or the very subject of Imperialism itself? You can be the judge after reading this intriguing novel.

The Kindle book is easy to use and saves your place, as well as allowing you to highlight, bookmark, and make notes, but the one issue I had was with quick reference to the notes featured at the end of the text. There wasn't a user-friendly way to go back and forth between the notes and the text without losing your place in the book after digging up the correct note that corresponds to the page you're on. They would have been much more useful if this hadn't been so inconvenient.

Fordrellador

I was interested in how Conrad's "Heart of Darkness" was the idea for "Apocalypse Now."

Water

Interesting, historical-based narration of the Belgian Congo years where ivory and other raw materials were extracted from Central Africa. The book clearly describes the geography and the abuse of natives.

Modred

Not so great. But it is a classic I guess. Forced myself to finish the title story. I don't get why it is held in such high esteem. Maybe when it came out there was nothing else like it?

Brariel

I was really excited to read this because of Conrad's legendary status as an author and the fact this book was the basis for the Heart Of Darkness film. However, I found it to read for leisure not as thrilling or as dark and twisted as I had heard it would be. Conrad's writing is unbelievably detailed and interwoven with countless metaphors that make the book sound like a dream-like state. It did not convey as much wretchedness about the Congo as I had anticipated from reviews, but rather just showed the cultural difference between a European sailor and the natives of the Congo.

Questionably ignorant, the way that Conrad phrases his understanding seems akin to someone who both does not understand the primitive nature of racism and also someone who does not value anyone differently. It's just a book, albeit a short one, that did not click for me and I'm unsure if it was because of too much hype or it just wasn't for me. I'm glad I read it though to check one off the list.

Thetath

Although it is a deemed controversial now, Conrad's most famous work is undoubtedly one of the best psychological thrillers ever written.

Precious

This book is a great read and I see why it is becoming more popular.

Very insightful and thought provoking.

It was a gift and he loved it!

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