



Joseph Conrad

Heart of Darkness

by Joseph Conrad (1857-1924)

Before its 1903 publication, *Heart of Darkness* appeared as a three-part series (1899) in *Blackwood's Magazine*. The story centers on the narrator Charles Marlow, an Englishman who takes a foreign assignment from a Belgian trading company as a riverboat captain in Africa. Marlow is employed to transport ivory downriver; however, his more pressing assignment is to return Kurtz, an ivory trader with an unsavory reputation, to civilization. *Heart of Darkness* exposes the dark side of European colonization while exploring the three levels of darkness that the protagonist, Marlow, encounters: the darkness of the Congo wilderness, the darkness of the Europeans' cruel treatment of the Africans, and the unfathomable darkness within the human soul.

(Wikipedia)



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