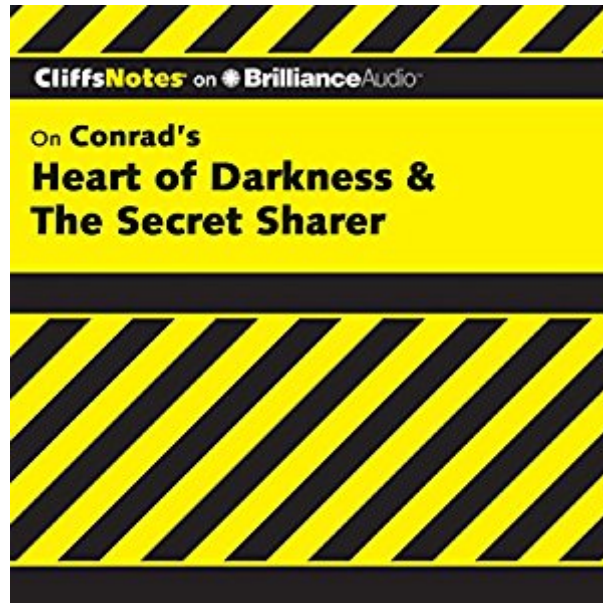


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Heart Of Darkness & The Secret Sharer: CliffsNotes



Synopsis

The CliffsNotes study guide on Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness* and "The Secret Sharer" supplements the original literary works, giving you background information about the author, an introduction to the works, and critical commentaries, all for you to use as an educational tool that will allow you to better understand these works. This study guide was written with the assumption that you have read *Heart of Darkness* and "The Secret Sharer". Reading a literary work doesn't mean that you immediately grasp the major themes and devices used by the author; this study guide will help supplement your reading to be sure you get all you can from Conrad's *Heart of Darkness* and "The Secret Sharer". CliffsNotes Review tests your comprehension of the original text and reinforces learning with questions and answers, practice projects, and more. For further information on Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness* and "The Secret Sharer", check out the CliffsNotes Resource Center at www.cliffsnotes.com.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 2 hours and 54 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Brilliance Audio

Audible.com Release Date: March 16, 2011

Language: English

ASIN: B004SCH608

Best Sellers Rank: #110 in Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Regional & Cultural > European > Eastern #550 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Nonfiction > Study Aids #798 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature > Literary Criticism

Customer Reviews

This Cliff Notes guide provides a clear and concise analysis and discussion of the famous Conrad short novel. The author discusses Conrad's personal background as it relates to the story, and the characters, themes, plot elements, the social and cultural views and philosophy of the author, and many other aspects of the book in an easy to understand way. Conrad is one of the few novelists, which include Melville, Tolstoy, Dostoevski, Lawrence Stern, and Jonathan Swift, whose work continues to impress me and has aged well as I've moved into my more mature years. Partly this is because of the dark themes he treats, such as the violence and cruelty and savagery lurking just

below the thin veneer of civilization, the brooding and melancholy power of his prose, and partly because English wasn't even his native language--he even learned it as an adult on shipboard. Heart of Darkness is one Conrad's shortest but greatest works in this sense, and after having read it in high school, I recently reacquainted myself with it after 30 years. I was just as impressed as I was back then. Most readers and movie fans will know the story's influence on Coppola's "Apocalypse Now," which is many ways a tribute to the Conrad book. This is a great book by one of history's greatest authors whose themes continue to resonate today. All an observant and intelligent individual has to do today to realize that Conrad was right about man's innermost nature and that we have not progressed at all in the last 10,000 years of "civilized history" is to look at the current sad state of the world and of humanity in general.

Anyone who has had to read either of these titles for school knows that teachers find a lot more in them than first meets the eye. Cliff Notes are a great way to gain insight into books and get a feel for the various interpretations. NOTE TO STUDENTS: You still have to read the book, folks. This just helps you understand it.

This is a well written study guide to one of the greatest novels ever written. It helps to unravel all the layers, symbols and themes of Conrad's masterpiece. Without it, I am sure I would not have appreciated the book as much as I do.

Reviewing CliffsNotes on Conrad's Heart of Darkness & The Secret Sharer is an excellent way to delve into the novel before reading the novel. Cliffsnotes provides background information about the author Joseph Conrad and summative narratives of the book. Cliffsnotes helps the reader understand the plot and subplots of the novel as well as a hint about the motives of the characters involved in the conflict.

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