

THE HEART OF DARKNESS

The “Heart of darkness” is a classic book written by Joseph Conrad and set in Africa.

It began with the Marlow's tale, who talks about his life. When he was a boy, he imagined that he would explore the depths of Africa. His dream one day became true because he was delegated by a Company to take a long journey on a steamboat into Africa. During his journey he met many people, the employees and the representatives of the rich company, the local tribe and the black men who were exploited. But Marlow wants to meet Mr Kurtz, a mysterious man who had done many important things for the ivory company. For this reason he had to go into this jungle where he finally met Mr Kurtz. He found a very unexpected situation.

The story is instructive because it shows how black people lived during the Colonization of Africa and how white people behaviour towards the Natives. We have a detailed description of the kind of life there was in that period. But there are negative aspects, the story isn't very exciting and it is very slow and a bit boring. The book talks about very few things, and it's not easy to understand.

In our opinion it isn't very interesting and we wouldn't recommend it to anybody else.

MARLOW

Marlow is a man of a middle age. Tall and slim but well-build. So he's strong and he's able to do heavy works but in this case he works with his mind and he's enough intelligent to manage to do a good and well done work even for the fire time. He has blonde hair and he looks like an intelligent and mysterious man. He is in some ways a traditional hero, because he is tough, honest and a capable man. He has open-minded, so he is very intelligent. At the same time, he is highly skilled at what he does.

Marlow is fascinated by the mysterious country, in fact he takes a long journey to Africa. Here he discovers of the tradition and people of the country and unexpected situations.

INTERVIEW TO MARLOW

1. Why did you decide to go to Africa? And not to another country?

I decided to go to Africa because it was an unexplored country and I found it very mysterious. So it was interesting for me to see what this country hid.

I wanted to see this people who were living in this unexplored country. Than I was looking also for riches and I knew that in Africa there was much ivory. But also because I wanted to prove myself in different living conditions.

2. Which were your feelings when you saw all the terrible things done to black people?

I have always known that black people were bad treated, but I would have never thought that were made to Native Africans such awful things. They were exploited by the Company, they had to work

all day long, they couldn't make any break. If they disobeyed or didn't work very well, they would have been punished. Their owner could whip them, or branding/marked them with fire. In some situation they could kill their slave. Black men didn't have any rights, they eat the minimum required to survive. I saw some of them without ears. In fact, the slave who tried to escape, were punished with the crop of the ears. I was really shocked.

3. Were you afraid? What's your greatest fear?

Yes. I was afraid because I had never thought that people can be so cruel and it was really hard for me to see all the bad treatment to Natives in Africa. I wanted to do something to help them, but I was afraid, in fact I didn't do anything. During the journey into the jungle, my fear was to be murdered by the Natives. I didn't like spending the nights into this, it was cold and dark, and the dangers were everywhere. But I think, now, that my greatest fear was to not be able to explain to the rest of the world the suffering of the indigenous people, and to become like Mr. Kurtz.

4. What was the true reason of your journey?

At the beginning the only reason of the journey was that I would become a famous explorer and discover of other traditions and people. I was fascinated by the unknown part of the continent. Maybe I wanted to become an important and rich representative of the Company. But now I think that this journey made me understand more about myself.

5. What do you think about the cannibals?

At the beginning I was afraid of them. I thought I could become their meal and I thought they weren't like us, but that they were cruel. But then I understood that my thoughts were wrong. Native cannibals are normal people and they don't abuse people different from them. They are, in some way, civilized, maybe more than European people who work for the company.

6. Did you enjoy meeting such an important man like Mr. Kurtz? What do you think about him?

The meeting with Mr. Kurtz wasn't pleasant, it wasn't an agreeable thing because he wasn't a friendly and happy man. But it was absolutely an important experience of my life because he is a particular person and it was useful for me to study his personality. I had the opportunity to analyze his behaviour and compare him to my own way of being. Mr. Kurtz had become an awful person, he was practicing cannibalism, he was sure that he was god and so he could kill and do whatever he wants. I could understand that the deep of his heart was really dark. After seeing this fortunately I started to think about my soul, about my deep feelings and about who I really am.

7. What did you do when you came back from Africa?

When I came back from Africa, I was still shocked by the terrible things I had seen. My attitude of seeing the world was totally changed. I couldn't and I wouldn't forget what I had seen. I wanted to tell those things to other people. First of all, I went to Mr. Kurtz's girlfriend to say he was dead and lied about his final words, saying he had spoken about her. In reality he had told "The horror! The horror!". I didn't know what he would have liked to say with these words, but I believe that he wanted to say how people can be cruel.