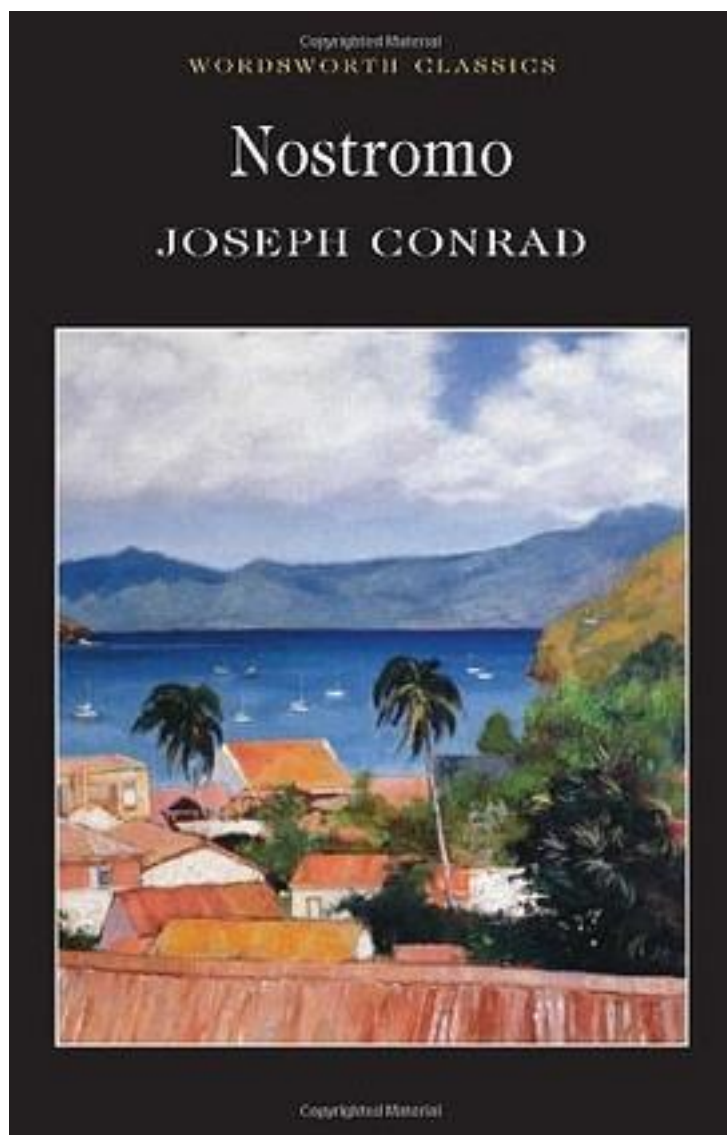


Nostromo



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著者:Joseph Conrad

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Book Description

The Wordsworth Classics covers a huge list of beloved works of literature in English and translations. This growing series is rigorously updated, with scholarly introductions and notes added to new titles.

Set in the imaginary South American republic of Costaguana, this work is an illustration of the impact of foreign exploitation on a developing nation. As Sulaco, site of an English/American controlled silver mine establishes its independence, its ideals are inevitably compromised.

From Library Journal

This involved, philosophical novel is not for the casual listener, especially one who is supposed to be concentrating on the road ahead. Writing in 1904, Conrad invented a complex South American country with a turbulent history and a potentially explosive population, ranging from the wealthy gringo running the Sulaco silver mine to the poorest worker loading cargo on the docks. Although the story teems with lively characters, the dazzling figure of Nostromo eclipses them all. A natural leader? brave, handsome, and incorruptible? he naturally becomes the epicenter of the revolution that soon devastates Sulaco. With characteristic eloquence, Conrad has focused on the dramatic action of the revolution to explore challenging themes: capitalism, imperialism, revolution, and social justice. Unfortunately, this audio program, read by Frederick Davidson, is disappointing. Despite fine dramatic characterizations, the narrator's posh British accent is so pronounced that it often detracts from the text. Since *Nostromo* has also been narrated by Frank Muller (Recorded Books) and Wolfram Kandinsky (Books on TapeR), perhaps this version may not be the best choice.

Jo Carr, Sarasota, Fla.

From AudioFile

This abridgment of Joseph Conrad's classic keeps in mind that the story is as much about the fictional province of Sulaco and the San Tome silver mine as it is about Nostromo, the "incorruptible" sailor who ends up concealing a fortune in silver. Although Nostromo is a presence throughout the novel, his tale actually begins on Side six. It preserves much of Conrad's fine detail, background history of Sulaco, and prose style, making the listener almost forget that this is an abridgment. Joss Ackland speaks Conrad's descriptive passages with a clear, refined voice that brings an authoritative air to this fictional history, while giving its main characters rougher voices. J.A.S.

About Author

Joseph Conrad was born Józef Teodor Konrad Korzeniowski in Russian-occupied Poland on December 3, 1857. His parents were aristocrats and intensely nationalistic political activists who were exiled to Vologda, northeast of Moscow, for their opposition to tsarist rule. Józef's mother, Ewa, died in 1865 of tuberculosis, and his father, Apollo, succumbed to the same disease four years later. Józef was cared for by his uncle Tadeusz Bobrowski until the young man acted on a long-expressed desire to go to sea. In 1874 he left for Marseilles, where he began sailing for the French merchant service.

In 1878, in money difficulties and no longer able to sail on French vessels because he had not secured an exemption from military service in Russia, Conrad attempted suicide. After his recovery, he left Marseilles on a British ship and went to England, where he worked the route between Lowestoft and Newcastle. He arrived in England virtually without qualifications and with very little English, but he was able in a few years to earn his master's certificate in the British merchant marine and became a British national. Conrad traveled to Mauritius and Constantinople, worked on wool clippers from London to Australia, and sailed the waters of the Far East. These voyages were punctuated by long periods when he could not find suitable positions because of the decline in sail-powered transport in the age of the steamship.

Conrad began writing in English, which became his language of choice after his native Polish and French, although he complained of difficulties with English grammar and syntax. His voyages provided the background for much of his fiction. 'Youth' and 'Typhoon' draw on Conrad's personal experience with disasters at sea. In 1881, he became second mate on the *Palestine*, a ship that was rammed, caught in tempestuous gales in the English Channel, had its cargo of coal catch fire, and sank off Sumatra. His captaincy of the *Otago* from Bangkok in 1888 informs *The Shadow-Line* (1917) and the stories 'Falk' and 'The Secret Sharer.' *Heart of Darkness* (1899) is drawn from an expedition to the Belgian Congo in 1890. He was already working on a novel when he traveled to the Congo, where he expected to take command of a river steamer. The assignment failed to materialize, and Conrad fell dangerously ill. On his return to England, he was forced to find work as a ship's mate. He was able during this period of intermittent employment to devote more time to his writing, and in 1894 he submitted the novel *Almayer's Folly* to the publisher Fisher Unwin. Unwin published it in 1895 under the anglicized version of Conrad's Polish name.

Conrad was encouraged to continue to write by Unwin's reader Edward Garnett, although he went on applying for posts as a ship's captain. He finished *The Outcast of the Islands* in 1895 and in 1896 married Jessie George. They had two sons, Borys and John, born in 1898 and 1906. Constantly in need of more money, Conrad produced short stories and serialized his novels. Although plagued by physical illness and psychological problems, he established one of the most formidable bodies of work in the English language. His longer works include *The Nigger of the 'Narcissus'* (1897), *Lord Jim* (1900), *Nostromo* (1904), *The Secret Agent* (1907), *Under Western Eyes* (1911), and *Victory* (1915). *Nostromo*, set in the imaginary South American republic of Costaguana, is considered by many critics to be Conrad's best work and by some to be the finest novel of the twentieth century.

From early in his career Conrad had the admiration of fellow writers--Stephen Crane, John Galsworthy, Henry James, and Ford Madox Ford, with whom Conrad collaborated on *The Inheritors* (1901) and *Romance* (1903). It was only after the success of *Chance* (1913), however, that his writing afforded him widespread recognition and relative financial security. He spent his declining years in Kent, often in ill health, and died on August 3, 1924, at his home near Canterbury.

Book Dimension :

length: (cm)19.8 width:(cm)12.6

作者介绍:

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标签

康拉德

英文原版

英国

英语文学

外国文学

Conrad

英文版

英國

评论

太难读了

这真是我看的比较难的一本书了，费了很大的力气。前面我并不是很喜欢，但结尾确实喜欢上了这本书。

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书评

虞建华 作
许多批评家都认为，《诺斯托罗莫》是康拉德最杰出的作品，也是最伟大的英语小说之一。也有人将它与小说中最博大的名著《战争与和平》进行比较。的确，《诺斯托罗莫》具有一种史诗的品质：事件重大，场面恢弘，人物众多，尽管康拉德的小说本质上不是史诗。作家在其...

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