

M.A II-Semester
ENGLISH LITERATURE
FICTION (Unit -IV)

LORD JIM
A Novel by
JOSEPH CONRAD

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THE AUTHOR

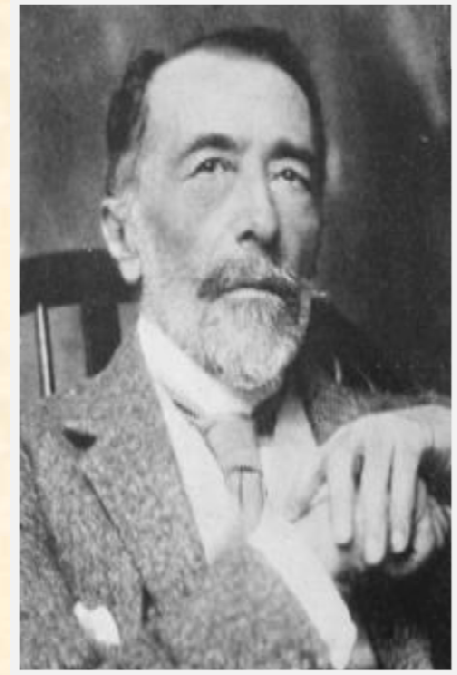
Joseph Conrad (Józef Teodor Konrad Korzeniowski)

Born on December 03, 1857 in Berdichev (formerly Poland), Ukraine. His Parents are Apollo Korzeniowski and Ewa (neeBobrowska).

Conrad's early childhood is described as being rather harsh, When he was only three, his father was imprisoned in Warsaw for his supposed revolutionary political affiliations.

At the tender age of eight, Conrad experienced the loss of his mother due to tuberculosis and his father passed away when Conrad was only twelve. Joseph also became a victim of tuberculosis.

Joseph Conrad at the age of twelve was placed under the care of his maternal uncle, Tadeusz Bobrowski, who introduced a new approach of life to the young boy(Joseph).



Literary Career

Joseph Conrad was a Polish novelist, and regarded as one of the great novelists in English. Conrad's odd way of using oblique symbolism was both his greatest strength and weakness. Conrad's literature was consistent with his gloomy nature, which was predominantly a result of his early experiences as a child and his own disordered young manhood.

His literary career depend on following famous three novels; in which he explores man's vulnerability and corruptibility.

Heart of Darkness (1899) -- This novel depicts the dark and gloomy way of life in the heart of Africa, it also signifies the corruption of Kurtz (an important character) and touches upon many other examples of moral and physical darkness.

Lord Jim (1899-1900) -- This novel offers the reader a glimpse of the tragic faults of mankind when he includes bloodthirsty pirates as essential characters in the plot.

Nostramo (1904) -- This novel seemed to base on his own personal experiences the Caribbean ports and Venezuela when he was a teenager.

A Modernist Novel

Lord Jim is a novel by [Joseph Conrad](#) originally published as a serial in [Blackwood's Magazine](#) from October 1899 to November 1900. *Lord Jim* is arguably Conrad's most romantic novel.

The novel Lord Jim, which Conrad began as a short sketch, grew into a novel that is widely recognized for its modernism, its tendency to buck the conventional narrative trends of its day. This novel is remarkable for its sophisticated structure: events are described from several view points, and often out of chronological order: the reader is left to form an impression of Jim's interior psychological state from these multiple external points of view.

An early and primary event in the story is the abandonment of a passenger ship in distress by its crew, including a young British seaman named Jim. He is publicly censured for this action and the novel follows his later attempts at coming to terms with himself and his past.

Major Characters

Captain Marlow -The narrator of this story and a ship's captain. He compulsively pieces together Jim's story and perpetuates it through various retellings. It is Marlow who filters and interprets most of the narrative for the reader. By manipulating the flow of the narrative, Marlow is able to create juxtapositions and contrasts that highlight particular aspects of the story.

Marlow first encounters Jim at the inquiry court trial where Jim loses his certification. Feeling that Jim is "one of us," he takes an interest in him, first helping him find employment as a water clerk and as a trading post manager for Stein.

Captain Brierly - One of the most decorated and respected ship's captains in the area. He is on the board of inquiry that tries Jim. Secretly, he makes Marlow an offer of money to help Jim run away. Not long after the inquiry, he commits suicide, motivated by some secret shame. He is implicitly contrasted with Jim.



JIM

- **Jim** - The protagonist of the novel, and also known as "Lord Jim," or "Tuan Jim." He is a young man who, inspired by popular literature, enters the world motivated primarily by fantasies of daring and noble deeds lifted from cheap novels.
- He is an idealistic young man who dreams of being a hero and tries to achieve this dream by becoming a naval officer. His first attempts at glory are failures, yet he waits for his next chance.
- He gets his chance when the ship he board get damaged, and fails utterly by abandoning ship with the rest of the crew. Haunted by his failure and stripped of his officer's certificate. He wanders from job to job, finally becoming the manager of a remote trading post.
- He falls in love with Jewel, a beautiful, half-native girl, and, by defeating a local bandit, becomes leader of the people. His dreams of heroism lead to his failure to kill a marauding white pirate, Gentleman Brown, which in turn leads to the death of Dain Waris, his best friend and son of Doramin, the local chief. Jim allows Doramin to shoot him in retribution.
- Lord Jim is the title character who redeems a life haunted by shame when he offers his life as payment for the life of his dead friend.

- ❑ **Jewel** -She is a young beautiful girl and beloved of Jim. **Jewel** is the daughter of the Dutch-Malay woman and stepdaughter of Cornelius. She is a pragmatic lady who encourages Jim for fight to survive after Dain Waris's death. Marlow encounters her after Jim's death at Stein's place, where she, broken and saddened, reminds Marlow about her prediction of Jim's infidelity has come true.
- ❑ **Cornelius** - Husband of the Dutch-Malay woman, he is the previous manager of Stein's Patusan post. He is Jewel's stepfather, and treats her badly, even asking for Jim to give him money in exchange for her. A bitter, cunning man, he betrays Jim to Gentleman Brown and causes the death of Dain Waris.
- ❑ **Dutch-Malay Woman** - A woman with a mysterious past, she is the real mother of Jewel and Cornelius's wife (although Cornelius is not Jewel's father). As a favor to her, Stein gives Cornelius a post in Patusan. She dies a horrible death with Cornelius, who always tortured her for money.

Doramin - He is chief of the Bugis; a wise, kind old man and a "war-comrade" of Stein's. Doramin is the father of Dain Waris, Jim's closest friend. Stein gives Jim a silver ring as a token of introduction to Doramin. Doramin saves Jim after his escape from the Rajah Allang, who had been holding him prisoner. When Dain Waris is killed because of Jim's misjudgment, Doramin shoots and kills Jim, who has offered himself up as a sacrifice.

□ **Dain Waris** - Doramin's son and Jim's best friend. The two are soul mates and Dain Waris serves as Jim's second-in-command. He leads the initial attack on Gentleman Brown, but is not entirely successful, lacking Jim's charisma as a leader of men. He is killed when Cornelius leads Brown down the river channel behind his camp, after Jim foolishly frees Brown and his men.

□ **Bugis** - A group of traders from who immigrate to Patusan many years before Jim arrives. They are constantly embroiled in conflict with the Rajah Allang, who wants to shut down their trading activities and enjoy monopoly of himself. Doramin is chief of Bugis in the story.

Gentleman Brown - A white pirate who, having barely escaped Spanish officials in the Philippines, comes to Patusan hoping to steal provisions. He is proud, terrified of confinement. Brown is an important contrast to Jim, as a man who lives a romantic life, but one that is far from moral or idealized. Unlike Jim, Brown is quick to own up to his past and his fears.

Gentleman Brown is rather famous in this part of the world, and is used as the stock bad guy whenever locals are telling stories. Although he had initially wanted to conquer and loot Patusan, but he realizes that he is out-numbered and negotiates with Jim.

In those negotiations, Brown shows that he is aware that Jim has a dark past, thereby appealing to Jim's tortured sense of ideals and receiving permission to retreat in safety.

Although, Brown has been conspiring with Cornelius and the Rajah Allang, He and his men are attacked on arrival in Patusan by Dain Waris and his gang, who had advance warning of Brown's coming and on his way back to his ship, he gets surprised by Dain Waris and his men at their camp.

Dain Waris is killed, which will lead to Jim's death. Brown and his men are shipwrecked soon after. Brown is the only survivor, although he dies soon afterward. Marlow visits him on his deathbed and gets part of the story from him.

Stein - The owner of a large trading post, he sends first Cornelius and then Jim to Patusan. Stein was forced to flee Europe as a young man after becoming involved in revolutionary activities. During his way to the East Indies, he has become successful as a trader. A thoughtful, analytical man who immediately diagnoses Jim for Marlow, he collects butterflies and beetles.

Rajah Allang - Also known as Tunku Allang. The corrupt, unofficial ruler of Patusan; the uncle of the legitimate but underage and possibly mentally-incompetent Sultan. He tries to enforce a monopoly on trade in the area. Allang captures Jim upon his arrival in Patusan. He also secretly allies with Gentleman Brown against Jim.

Tamb'Itam - is the one who give Marlow the most complete account of Jim's final days. He is a Malay who came to Patusan and was enslaved by the Rajah Allang. TamItam's freedom was returned by Doramin; so he becomes Jim's loyal servant and adviser. He escapes with Jewel after Jim's death.

Sherif Ali - A fanatic Muslim bandit who terrorizes Patusan from a stronghold in the hills. Jim defeats Ali to become a hero in Patusan.

Themes and Critical Insights

Marlow is the narrator of novel *LORD JIM* and three of Conrad's other following novels :
Heart of Darkness, Youth and Chance.

Betrayal and Redemption :

The novel *Lord JIM* is saturated with the idea of betrayal and the consequences that result from it. The defining incident in the book, the *Patna* incident, is horrible in many people's eyes because of the betrayal involved. When Jim decides to jump into a lifeboat, leaving the passengers to what he thinks is a certain death, he betrays both his code as an officer and his personal code of heroism.

Colonialism :

Postcolonial interpretation of the novel, while not as intensive as that of *Heart of Darkness*, points to similar themes in the two novels - its protagonist sees himself as part of a 'civilizing mission', and the story involves a 'heroic adventure' at the height of the British Empire's hegemony. Conrad's use of a protagonist with a dubious history has been interpreted as an expression of increasing doubts with regard to the Empire's mission.

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