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**from book\_heart\_darkness**

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He was silent for a long time.  
"Mistah Kurtz—he dead."  
"I had immense plans," he muttered irresolutely. 'Yes,' said I; 'but if you try to  
"Do you understand this?' I asked.  
His remark did not seem at all surprising. It was just like Marlow.  
It was  
**darkness** was here yesterday. Imagine the feelings of a commander of a fine—what d'ye call  
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By Joseph Conrad  
He paused.  
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Dr. Gregory B. Newby

The Nellie, a cruising yawl, swung to her anchor without a flutter of the sails  
**dark** above Gravesend, and farther back still seemed condensed into a mournful gloom, brooding motionless  
The Director of Companies was our captain and our host. We four affectionately watched his  
Between us there was, as I have already said somewhere, the bond of the sea  
And at last, in its curved and imperceptible fall, the sun sank low, and from  
**dark** "interlopers" of the Eastern trade, and the commissioned "generals" of East India fleets. Hunters  
The sun set; the dusk fell on the stream, and lights began to appear along  
this also," said Marlow suddenly, "has been one of the **dark** places of the earth."  
He was the only man of us who still "followed the sea." The worst that **darkness**. The conquest of the earth, which mostly means the taking it away from those  
He broke off. Flames glided in the river, small green flames, red flames, white flames  
"I don't want to bother you much with what happened to me personally," he  
"I had then, as you remember, just returned to London after a lot of Indian  
"Now when I was a little chap I had a passion for maps. I would **darkness**. But there was in it  
one river especially, a mighty big river, that you could  
"You understand it was a Continental concern, that Trading society; but I have a lot

"I am sorry to own I began to worry them. This was already a fresh  
 "I got my appointment—of course; and I got it very quick. It appears +  
 the  
 "I flew around like mad to get ready, and before forty-eight hours I +  
 was  
 "It was upward of thirty days before I saw the mouth of the big river  
 "This devoted band called itself the Eldorado Exploring Expedition, and +  
 I believe they were sworn  
 "A narrow and deserted street in deep shadow, high houses, innumerable +  
 windows with venetian blinds  
 "She turned away slowly, walked on, following the bank, and passed into +  
 the bushes to  
 "In about forty-five seconds I found myself again in the waiting-room +  
 with the  
**Darkness**, knitting black wool as for +  
 a warm pall, one introducing, introducing continuously to the unknown  
 "There was yet a visit to the doctor. 'A simple formality,' assured me +  
 the secretary  
 "The old doctor felt my pulse, evidently thinking of something else +  
 the while. 'Good, good  
 "One thing more remained to do—say good-by to my excellent aunt. I +  
 found  
 "'You forget, dear Charlie, that the laborer is worthy of his hire,' she +  
 said, brightly  
 "After this I got embraced, told to wear flannel, be sure to write +  
 often, and  
**dark**-green as to be almost black, fringed with white surf, ran straight, +  
 like a ruled  
 "Instead of going up, I turned and descended to the left. My idea was to  
 "We gave her her letters (I heard the men in that lonely ship were dying  
 "I had my passage on a little sea-going steamer. Her captain was a +  
 Swede  
 "At last we opened a reach. A rocky cliff appeared, mounds of turned-up +  
 earth  
**dark** things +  
 seemed to stir feebly. I blinked, the path was steep. A horn tooted  
 "A slight clinking behind me made me turn my head. Six black men +  
 advanced in  
 "I avoided a vast artificial hole somebody had been digging on the +  
 slope, the purpose  
 "Black shapes crouched, lay, sat between the trees, leaning against the +  
 trunks, clinging to the  
 "I did not see the real significance of that wreck at once. I fancy I +  
**darkness** he had in his keeping.  
 You fancied you had seen things—but the seal  
 "In exterior he resembled a butcher in a poor neighborhood, and his eyes +  
 had a  
 "They were dying slowly—it was very clear. They were not enemies, they +  
 were not  
 "Near the same tree two more bundles of acute angles sat with their legs +  
 drawn  
 ". . . No, it is impossible; it is impossible to convey the +  
 life-sensation of any given  
 "I didn't want any more loitering in the shade, and I made haste towards  
 "I shook hands with this miracle, and I learned he was the Company's +  
 chief  
 wire set into the depths of **darkness**, and in return came a +  
 precious trickle of ivory.  
 "I had to wait in the station for ten days—an eternity. I lived in  
 "One day he remarked, without lifting his head, 'In the interior you +  
 will no doubt  
 "Suddenly there was a growing murmur of voices and a great tramping of +  
 feet. A

"He turned to his work. The noise outside had ceased, and presently  
in going out +

"Next day I left that station at last, with a caravan of sixty men, for +

"No use telling you much about that. Paths, paths, everywhere; a +

stamped-in network of

"'Forgive me. I—I-have mourned so long in silence—in silence. . . . +

You were with

"'To the very end,' I said, shakily. 'I heard his very last words. . . .'

"He began to speak as soon as he saw me. I had been very long +

invincible, like

**evil** or truth, waiting patiently for the passing away of this fantastic +

invasion.

"Oh, these months! Well, never mind. Various things happened. One +

evening a grass shed full

**dark** I found myself at the back of two men, +

talking. I heard the name

"I had no idea why he wanted to be sociable, but as we chatted in +

He paused again as if reflecting, then added—"Of course in this you +

fellows see

"It arrested me, and he stood by civilly, holding a half-pint champagne +

bottle (medical

"'The chief of the Inner Station,' he answered in a short tone, looking +

away. 'Much

comes here, a special being, as you ought +

to know.' 'Why ought I to know

"But they didn't. Instead of rivets there came an invasion, an +

infliction, a visitation

"I had given up worrying myself about the rivets. One's capacity for +

that kind

"He blew the candle out suddenly, and we went outside. The moon had +

risen. Black

"I let him run on, this +

Mephistopheles, and it seemed to

me that if I tried I could poke my forefinger +

He was silent for a while.

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**dark** that we listeners could hardly see one +

another. For a long time already he, sitting

". . . Yes—I let him run on," Marlow began again, "and think what +

he pleased about

"He was becoming confidential now, but I fancy my unresponsive attitude +

must have exasperated him

"I was not surprised to see somebody sitting aft, on the deck, with +

his legs

**dark** figure obscured the lighted doorway of the manager's hut, +

vanished, then, a second

**dark**. I went no more near the remarkable man +

who had pronounced a judgment upon

**darkly**. I observed with assumed innocence that no man was safe +

from trouble in this

"One evening as I was lying flat on the deck of my steamboat, I heard +

unpleasant,' grunted

the uncle. 'He has asked the Administration to be sent there,' said the +

"I was broad awake by this time, but, lying perfectly at ease, remained +

still, having

**evil**, to the profound **darkness** of its heart. It was so startling +

that I leaped

"They swore aloud together—out of sheer fright, I believe—then +

pretending not to know

"In a few days the Eldorado Expedition went into the patient wilderness, +

that closed upon

"Going up that river was like traveling back to the earliest beginnings +

of the world  
 "Try to be civil, Marlow," growled a voice, and I knew there was at least  
**darkness**. It was very quiet there. At night sometimes the roll of drums behind the curtain  
**evil** mine is the speech that cannot be silenced. Of course, a fool, what with  
**dark** corner,  
 and by the door I picked up a book. It had lost its covers  
 "I had been dimly aware for some time of a worrying noise, and when I  
 "The current was more rapid now, the steamer seemed at her last gasp, the stern  
**dark**. This was sensible enough. Eight miles meant nearly three hours' steaming for us, and I could  
**dark**-blue fringed cloths, with fierce nostrils and his hair all done up artfully in oily  
 worked. There were either no villages, or the people were hostile, or the director, who  
 "Some of the pilgrims behind the stretcher carried his arms—two shot-guns, a heavy  
 "Two pilgrims were quarreling in hurried whispers as to which bank. 'Left.' 'No, no; how  
 "I did not think they would attack, for several obvious reasons. The thick fog was  
 "You should have seen the pilgrims stare! They had no heart to grin, or even  
 "It developed itself, I should say, two hours after the fog lifted, and its commencement  
 "No sooner had we fairly entered it than I became aware it was much narrower  
 "One of my hungry and forbearing friends was sounding in the bows just below me  
 "I was looking down at the sounding-pole, and feeling much annoyed to see at  
**dark**-red under the wheel; his eyes shone with an amazing luster. The fusillade burst  
 "We two whites stood over him, and his lustrous and inquiring glance enveloped us both  
 "And then they very nearly buried me.  
**darkness**. He had summed up—he had judged. 'The horror!' He was a remarkable man. After  
 pulsating stream of light, or the deceitful flow from the heart of an impenetrable **darkness**.  
 "The other shoe went flying unto the devil-god of that river. I thought, 'By  
 There was a pause of profound stillness, then a match flared, and Marlow's lean  
 "Absurd!" he cried. "This is the worst of trying to tell. . . . Here you all are  
**darkness** claimed him for their own. That was the reflection that made you creepy all over  
 "Poor fool! If he had only left that shutter alone. He had no restraint, no  
 "This I did directly the simple funeral was over. We were going half-speed, keeping  
**dark** at all events,  
 when I saw in the distance a clearing on the river  
 "He rustled one of the letters, and looking straight in my face said, 'I am  
 "The manager appeared silently in the doorway; I stepped out at once and he drew  
**darkly** menacing at last,  
 and with much heat argued that the Company had the right

I stopped in a fright.

"Repeat them," she said in a heart-broken tone. 'I want—I want—something—something

"Through my glasses I saw the slope of a hill interspersed with rare trees and

"His aspect reminded me of something I had seen—something funny I had seen somewhere

"When the manager, escorted by the pilgrims, all of them armed to the teeth, had

"The pipe soothed him, and gradually I made out he had run away from school

"I gave him Towson's book. He made as though he would kiss me, but

**Dark** human shapes could be made out in the distance, flitting indistinctly against the gloomy

"True," I said; 'his example too. Yes, his example. I forgot that.'

"But I do not. I cannot—I cannot believe—not yet. I cannot believe that

stream, the stream of **darkness**.

She said suddenly very low, 'He died as he lived.'

"I looked at him, lost in astonishment. There he was before me, in motley, as

"They had come together unavoidably, like two ships becalmed near each other, and lay rubbing

**dark**, so

impenetrable to human thought, so pitiless to human weakness. 'And, ever since, you have

"On the contrary. It appears their intercourse had been very much broken by various causes

"She came abreast of the steamer, stood still, and faced us. Her long shadow fell

"I am not disclosing any trade secrets. In fact the manager said afterwards that Mr

"The admirer of Mr. Kurtz was a bit crestfallen. In a hurried, indistinct voice he

"His voice lost itself in the calm of the evening. The long shadows of the

**dark**-faced and pensive forest. The bushes shook, the grass swayed for a time, and then

**darkly** far in its bony head that nodded with grotesque jerks. Kurtz—Kurtz—that means

"His end," said I, with dull anger stirring in me, 'was in every way worthy

"And I was not with him," she murmured. My anger subsided before a feeling of

"Everything that could be done—" I mumbled.

"Ah, but I believed in him more than anyone on earth—more than his own

"She walked with measured steps, draped in striped and fringed cloths, treading the earth proudly

"If she had offered to come aboard I really think I would have tried to

"At this moment I heard Kurtz's deep voice behind the curtain, 'Save me!—save

Why, I've had

to save you. You are interrupting my plans now. Sick! Sick

"The manager came out. He did me the honor to take me under the arm , and turned his back on me. My hour of favor was

over; I found myself

**darkness** of an

impenetrable night. . . . The Russian tapped me on the shoulder. I heard

him mumbling  
 "He stated with a good deal of formality that had we not been 'of the  
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 "I blew the candle out and left the cabin. The pilgrims were dining in +  
 the  
 "I felt like a chill grip on my chest. 'Don't,' I said, in a  
**dark** +  
 blue) peeped 'Towson's Inquiry,' &c., &c. He seemed to think himself +  
**darkness**, real enough to +  
 make me get up for the purpose of having a look  
 "I think I would have raised an outcry if I had believed my eyes. But  
 "There was an agent buttoned up inside an ulster and sleeping on a chair +  
 on  
 "As soon as I got on the bank I saw a trail—a broad trail  
**dark** blue space, sparkling with dew and starlight, in which +  
 black things stood very still  
 "I came upon him, and, if he had not heard me coming, I would have  
 "When next day we left at noon, the crowd, of whose presence behind the +  
 curtain  
 "We had carried Kurtz into the pilot-house: there was more air there. +  
 Lying on  
 "He kept on looking out past me with fiery, longing eyes, with a mingled +  
 expression  
 "I pulled the string of the whistle, and I did this because I saw the  
 "And then that imbecile crowd down on the deck started their little fun, +  
 and I  
**darkness**, bearing us +  
 down towards the sea with twice the speed of our upward progress  
**darkness** of his heart. Oh, he struggled! he struggled! The wastes +  
 of his weary brain  
 "Sometimes he was contemptibly childish. He desired to have kings meet +  
 him at railway-stations  
 "We broke down—as I had expected—and had to lie up for repairs at  
**darkness**. I looked at him as you peer down at +  
 a man who is lying  
**dark** waiting for death.' +  
 The light was within a foot of his eyes. I forced  
 "Anything approaching the change that came over his features I have +  
 never seen before, and  
 "'The horror! The horror!'  
 "Thus I was left at last with a slim packet of letters and the girl  
**darkness**. +  
 It was a moment of triumph for the wilderness, an invading and vengeful +  
 rush  
**dark** gleams +  
 on the flat surfaces like a somber and polished sarcophagus. A high door  
**dark** eyes looked out at me. Their glance was +  
 guileless, profound, confident, and trustful. She carried  
 "'Intimacy grows quick out there,' I said. 'I knew him as well as it is  
 "'And you admired him,' she said. 'It was impossible to know him and not +  
 to  
 "'He was a remarkable man,' I said, unsteadily. Then before the +  
 appealing fixity of her  
 "'Love him,' she finished eagerly, silencing me into an appalled +  
 dumbness. 'How true! how true  
 "'You knew him best,' I repeated. And perhaps she did. But with every +  
 word spoken  
 "'You were his friend,' she went on. 'His friend,' she repeated, a +  
 little louder. 'You

**darkness** deepened. I was not even sure whether he had  
 given me the right bundle  
 beyond the  
 threshold of an eternal **darkness**. 'But you have heard him! You know!' she cried.  
**darkness**, in  
 the triumphant **darkness** from which I could not have defended her—from  
 which  
 "What a loss to me—to us!"—she corrected herself with beautiful  
 generosity; then added  
 "'I have been very happy—very fortunate—very proud,' she went on. 'Too  
 fortunate. Too  
 "She stood up; her fair hair seemed to catch all the remaining light in  
 a  
 "'And of all this,' she went on, mournfully, 'of all his promise, and  
 of all  
 "'We shall always remember him,' I said, hastily.  
 "'No!' she cried. 'It is impossible that all this should be lost—that  
 such a  
 "'His words will remain,' I said.  
 "'And his example,' she whispered to herself. 'Men looked up to  
 him,—his goodness shone  
 "I was on the point of crying at her, 'Don't you hear them?' The  
 "'His last word—to live with,' she murmured. 'Don't you understand I  
 loved him  
 "I pulled myself together and spoke slowly.  
 "'The last word he pronounced was—your name.'  
 couldn't. I could not tell her. It would have  
 been too **dark**—too **dark** altogether. . . ."  
 somber under an overcast  
 sky—seemed to lead into the heart of an immense **darkness**.  
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