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## The Secret Agent: A Simple Tale

By Joseph Conrad

Wordsworth Editions Ltd, United Kingdom, 1997. Paperback. Book Condition: New. New edition. 190 x 124 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. With an Introduction and Notes by Hugh Epstein, Secretary of the Joseph Conrad Society of Great Britain. Then the vision of an enormous town presented itself, of a monstrous town, a cruel devourer of the world's light. There was room enough there to place any story, depth enough for any passion, variety enough there for any setting, darkness enough to bury five millions of lives. Conrad's monstrous town is London, and his story of espionage and counter-espionage, anarchists and embassies, is a detective story that becomes the story of Winnie Verloc's tenacity in maintaining her devotion to her peculiar and simple-minded brother, Stevie, as they pursue their very ordinary lives above a rather dubious shop in the back streets of Soho. However, far from offering any sentimental picture, *The Secret Agent* is Conrad's funniest novel. Its savagely witty picture of human absurdity and misunderstanding is written in an ironic style that provokes laughter and unease at the same time, and that continues to provide one of the most disturbing visions of aspiration and futility in...



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