



Penguin Modern Classics

4/-

Joseph Conrad
Lord Jim





Joseph Conrad

The sailor who is the dominant character of this long narrative once lost his nerve in a crisis. After the official inquiry had condemned him for abandoning his ship, Jim became preoccupied in the task of redeeming himself – not in the eyes of the world but, so to speak, in the sight of his own soul. He was an impressive and enigmatic figure, known in every Eastern port and trading-station, and his whole behaviour contradicted the stigma of cowardice which rested on his name. The final chapters of his restless pilgrimage took him into the jungles of Malaya where he earned his title of 'Tuan' – or Lord – Jim from the subjects of the little empire he established there.

No less fascinating than the motives and adventures of this strange personality is Conrad's method of unfolding the story. For here he adopts that device of 'oblique narration' which discloses events and impressions as they appeared to eyewitnesses and which thereby intensifies their immediacy. It is by this adoption of the manner of the Ancient Mariner that Conrad makes the tale of Lord Jim so vivid and compelling.

The cover is based on a photograph by John Freeman of Epstein's bust in the National Portrait Gallery

For copyright reasons this edition is not for sale in the U.S.A.