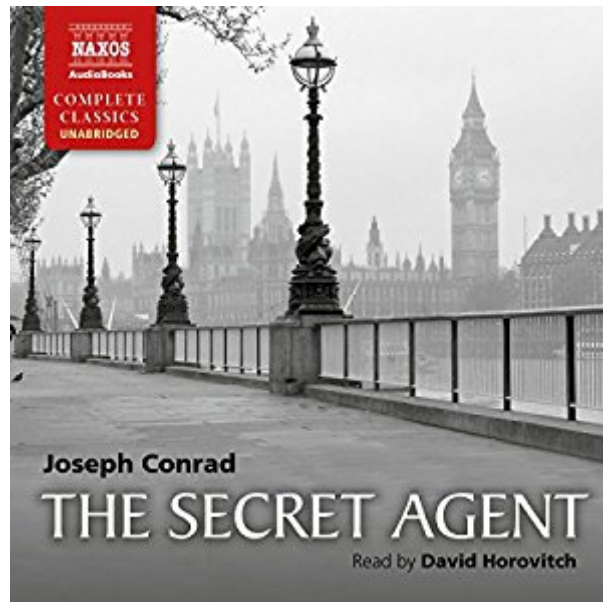


The book was found

# The Secret Agent



## Synopsis

Joseph Conrad's *The Secret Agent* is a tale of anarchism, espionage, and terrorism. Our agent, a man named Mr Verloc, minds his own business while he keeps his shop in London's Soho, alongside his wife, who attends to her aged mother and disabled brother. Their lives are turned upside down when Verloc is reluctantly employed to plant a bomb and destroy an observatory in London. What was once the perfect bomb plot inevitably turns awry and Verloc, his family and his associates are forced to face the consequences. Conrad's later political novel bears all the hallmarks of his captivating style. *The Secret Agent* brims with melodious and poetic language, alongside crystal-clear psychological insights that could only be the work of a uniquely gifted storyteller.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 11 hours and 7 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Naxos AudioBooks

Audible.com Release Date: August 8, 2014

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B00MII9ERW

Best Sellers Rank: #196 in Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Genres & Styles > Drama #208 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature > Literary Criticism

## Customer Reviews

*The Secret Agent* was a major risk for Joseph Conrad, a London tale of international political intrigue far removed from the symbolic sea adventures he had previously written. That it is not only one of his greatest triumphs but also one of the best novels of its kind testifies to his greatness. The diversity it introduced to his canon is truly remarkable; very few writers have works so different in nearly every respect. It is thus essential not only for those who like his other work but also for those who do not. The immediate subjects are terrorism and anarchism, and I know of no work that uses them with more brilliance or verisimilitude. Conrad's Preface says that he thought it a high compliment when terrorists and anarchists praised its realism, and he indeed deserved it. He brings this truly underground world vividly to life, depicting everything from speech to customs to dress in

believable detail. The vast majority of course want nothing to do with such a world, but the peek is undeniably fascinating. Conrad's psychological insight is particularly intriguing and valuable. All this brings up the important - some would say central - point of how Conrad views these characters. That terrorists and other unsavory personages have been sympathetic to it - particularly the Unabomber's obsession with it - seems to strongly suggest that Conrad leans toward them, but a close reading of the text or mere glance at his Preface shows otherwise. He clearly has nothing but contempt for them; this comes across forcefully in the narrator's ironic mockery and Conrad's noting that Winnie Verloc is the only true anarchist - a terrorist jab if ever one existed. In his view, they were pretentious, portentous, and above all, simply ineffectual with greatly exaggerated self-importance.

Joseph Conrad's 1907 novel, "The Secret Agent," is a difficult little book. It's story is difficult and its characters are largely unpleasant. By difficult and unpleasant, I don't mean to say the novel isn't any good. Far from it. These terms I mean to denote the impenetrability of motive, of sense. The story of a group of anarchists, police, and a family caught in the middle in late Victorian England, "The Secret Agent" is far from Conrad's subtitle, "A Simple Tale". The novel, for me, is about hatred, mistrust, and breakdowns in communication."The Secret Agent" begins early one morning in 1886. Mr. Verloc, a secret agent for a foreign embassy, who lives in a small apartment with his wife Winnie, her mentally ill brother, Stevie, and their mother. Keeping an eye on a particularly ineffectual anarchist community in London, Verloc pretends to be an anarchist revolutionary himself. As the novel opens, Verloc is called in by his new employer Mr. Vladimir. Vladimir, discontented with the apparent lack of production out of his secret agent, and even further with the lackadaisical English police, wants Verloc to act as an agent provocateur, and arrange for a bomb to spur the English government to crack down on the legal system. As religion and royalty are, according to Vladimir, no longer strong enough emotional ties to the people, an attack must be made upon "Science," and he selects the Greenwich Observatory as the appropriate site for action. The novel introduces us to a range of wholly unsympathetic characters.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Innovative Agent: The Insurance Agent's Roadmap for Success The Hunters: A Presidential Agent Novel (Presidential Agent Series) The Hostage: A Presidential Agent Novel (Presidential Agent Series) The Honest Real Estate Agent: A Training Guide for a Successful First Year and Beyond as a Real Estate Agent The Ultimate Guide to Success for the New or Struggling Real Estate Agent: PRINCIPLES of a SUCCESSFUL REAL ESTATE AGENT The Secret Agent Life

Inside the Bubble: Why a Top-Ranked Secret Service Agent Walked Away from It All Detective  
Notebook: Secret Agent Codes Our Man in Charleston: Britain's Secret Agent in the Civil War South  
The Secret Agent: In Search of America's Greatest World War II Spy (Kindle Single) Within Arm's  
Length: A Secret Service Agent's Definitive Inside Account of Protecting the President Mystery of  
the Egyptian Scroll: Secret Agent Zet Series Book 1 (Zet Mystery Case) Secret Agent 6th Grader (a  
hilarious mystery for children ages 9-12) Top Secret Files: The Civil War: Spies, Secret Missions,  
and Hidden Facts from the Civil War (Top Secret Files of History) Agent Provocateur Exhibitionist  
The Millionaire Real Estate Agent The Triple Agent: The al-Qaeda Mole who Infiltrated the CIA  
Agent Storm: My Life Inside al Qaeda and the CIA Spinning Disney's World: Memories of a Magic  
Kingdom Press Agent School Guard (Safety Agent)(Passbooks)

[Dmca](#)