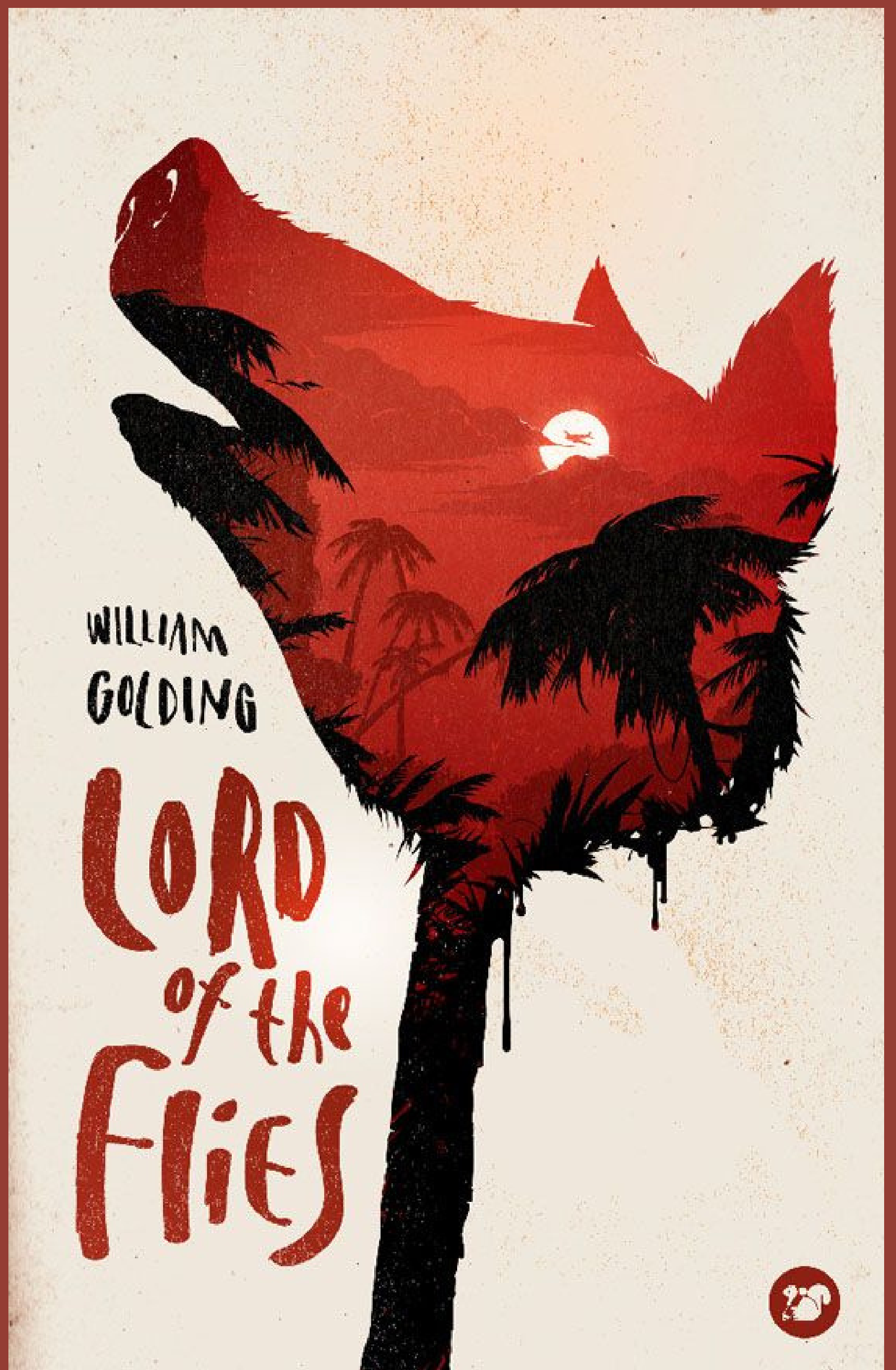


WHY AND HOW PEOPLE BECOME EVIL?



It is often said that evil is the absence of good. Why does this good disappear? Are we able to control such a process? How is it possible for people to avoid becoming evil?

Reading the novel «Lord of the flies», written by William Golding we can get answers for these questions or at least some food for thought concerning them.

From the very beginning of it, this story seems to be for a reader a kind of journey through the childhood world full of fun and adventures. Nevertheless, due to this novel we discover a new definition of the “childhood world”, full of anger and hatred.

The reason is that these little boys represent the nature of the whole mankind. The story is full of symbols. As a result, we understand that what is «having fun» for these children (actually something that looks guiltless) means losing chances to be rescued for humanity.



Our life is full of aspects which can be divided into two different types: materialistic and spiritual ones. In the novel such a thing as fire represents both of them.

When it comes to cooking, boys use fire for their materialistic needs and when it comes to rescue, boys use fire to be seen in the island by others, so to be saved, which means the main spiritual need for human beings.



Reading this story we realise that if we want to be saved we shouldn't forget about maintaining the fire by focusing just on hunting. There is no doubt that food is necessary for boys.

However, is it more crucial than returning home? What is more, is hunting the only way to get rid of hunger? And finally, is it impossible to get food and get rescued at once. In other words, is it impossible to care for our body and soul at the same time?



Thus, evil does not appear from nowhere. As we see in the novel, Lord of the Flies, who represents the main evil there, appears only in chapter 8, not earlier. Since, in this particular moment boys are almost all ready to meet him.

They have forgotten about their main goal - to be rescued. They have forgotten about their human nature. They are painted, untidy savages, who are just concerned about getting meat and having fun. They have forgotten about their spiritual needs and humiliate those ones who still remember them. As we see there is no good left, therefore evil appears.

Since evil is the absence of good.

