



Moby-Dick (Second Edition) (Norton Critical Editions)

By Herman Melville

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For this Sesquicentennial Norton Critical Edition, the Northwestern-Newberry text of *Moby-Dick* has been generously footnoted to include dozens of biographical discoveries, mainly from Hershel Parker's work on his two-volume biography of Melville.

A section of "Whaling and Whalecraft" features prose and graphics by John B. Putnam, a sample of contemporary whaling engravings, as well as, new to this edition, an engraving of Tupai Cupa, the real-life inspiration for the character of Queequeg.

Evoking Melville's fascination with the fluidity of categories like savagery and civilization, the image of Tupai Cupa fittingly introduces "Before *Moby-Dick*: International Controversy over Melville," a new section that documents the ferocity of religious, political, and sexual hostility toward Melville in reaction to his early books, beginning with *Typee* in 1846.

The image of Tupai Cupa also evokes Melville's interest in the mystery of self-identity and the possibility of knowing another person's "queenly personality" (Chapter 119). That theme (focused on Melville, Ishmael, and Ahab) is pursued in "A Handful of Critical Challenges," from Walter E. Bezanson's classic centennial study through Harrison Hayford's meditation on "Loomings" and recent essays by Camille Paglia and John Wenke.

In "Reviews and Letters by Melville," a letter has been redated and a wealth of new biographical material has been added to the footnotes, notably to Melville's "Hawthorne and His Mosses." "Analogues and Sources" retains classic pieces by J. N. Reynolds and Owen Chase, as well as new findings by Geoffrey Sanborn and Steven Olsen-Smith. In "Reviews of *Moby-Dick*" emphasizes the ongoing religious hostility toward Melville and highlights new discoveries, such as the first-known Scottish review of *The Whale*. "Posthumous Praise and the Melville Revival: 1893-1927" collects belated, enthusiastic praise up through that of William Faulkner. "Biographical Cross-Light" is Hershel Parker's somber look at what writing *Moby-Dick* cost Melville and his family.

From Foreword through Selected Bibliography, this Sesquicentennial Norton Critical Edition is uniquely valuable as the most up-to-date and comprehensive documentary source for study of *Moby-Dick*.

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Moby-Dick (Second Edition) (Norton Critical Editions) By Herman Melville Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 5 Up-Opening with the classic line, "Call me Ishmael," the narrator's New England accent adds a touch of authenticity to this sometimes melodramatic presentation. The St. Charles Players do a credible job on the major roles, but some of the group responses, such as "Aye, aye Captain," sound more comic than serious. This adaptation retains a good measure of Melville's dialogue and key passages which afford listeners a vivid connection with the lengthy novel. Background music and appropriate sound effects enhance the telling of the story about Captain Ahab's obsessive pursuit of the malevolent white whale. The cassettes are clearly marked, and running times are noted on each side of the tapes. Announcements at the beginning of each side and a subtle chime signal at the end make it easy to follow the story, but a stereo player must be used to hear some dialogue. The lightweight cardboard package is inadequate for circulation. Done in a radio theatre format, the recording does a nice job of introducing the deeper themes of the book and covering the major events. For school libraries that support an American literature curriculum, this recording offers a different interpretation of an enduring classic.

Barbara Wysocki, Cora J. Belden Library. Rocky Hill, CT

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From Library Journal

November 14 marks the 150th anniversary of Melville's salty saga of vengeance and obsession. Now a contender for the great American novel, this book was harpooned at the time of its 1851 publication by critics who found it overly long and boorish (observations no doubt still shared by countless high school students). They felt that like Ahab, the story didn't have much of a leg to stand on. The once lucrative whaling industry also was in its death throes and of little interest to readers. The book was forgotten for decades before being rediscovered in the 1920s by scholars who understood and appreciated the multilevel symbolism and allegory dismissed by their 19th-century predecessors. Melville published little after the failure of *Moby-Dick* and made his living as a customs inspector in New York City, where he was born in 1819 and died in complete obscurity in 1891. He is buried in the Bronx. This edition of his masterwork includes the full text along with illustrations of whales, whaling barks, and whaling instruments; maps; and a new introduction by Nathaniel Philbrick. A lot for the price.

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Review

'In his great whaling epic Melville roamed both the seas, and the secret places of men's minds. In the alternate playfulness and ferocity of the great white whale he found the perfect metaphor within which to develop his views on life, death and God.' *The Sunday Times*

'An attractive edition to a field rather overcrowded with inexpensive editions. However, the Hawthorne material gives this one an edge.' Andrew Lyman, Leicester University. 'Much better annotations than any other available edition.' H. Merritt, CCAT Cambridge.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Eva Stanfield:

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Reading a guide tends to be new life style in this era globalization. With reading through you can get a lot of information that can give you benefit in your life. With book everyone in this world may share their idea. Guides can also inspire a lot of people. A lot of author can inspire their own reader with their story or their experience. Not only the storyplot that share in the publications. But also they write about the information about something that you need case in point. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach children, there are many kinds of book that you can get now. The authors on earth always try to improve their proficiency in writing, they also doing some study before they write to the book. One of them is this Moby-Dick (Second Edition) (Norton Critical Editions).

Robert Dunham:

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Whitney Ortez:

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