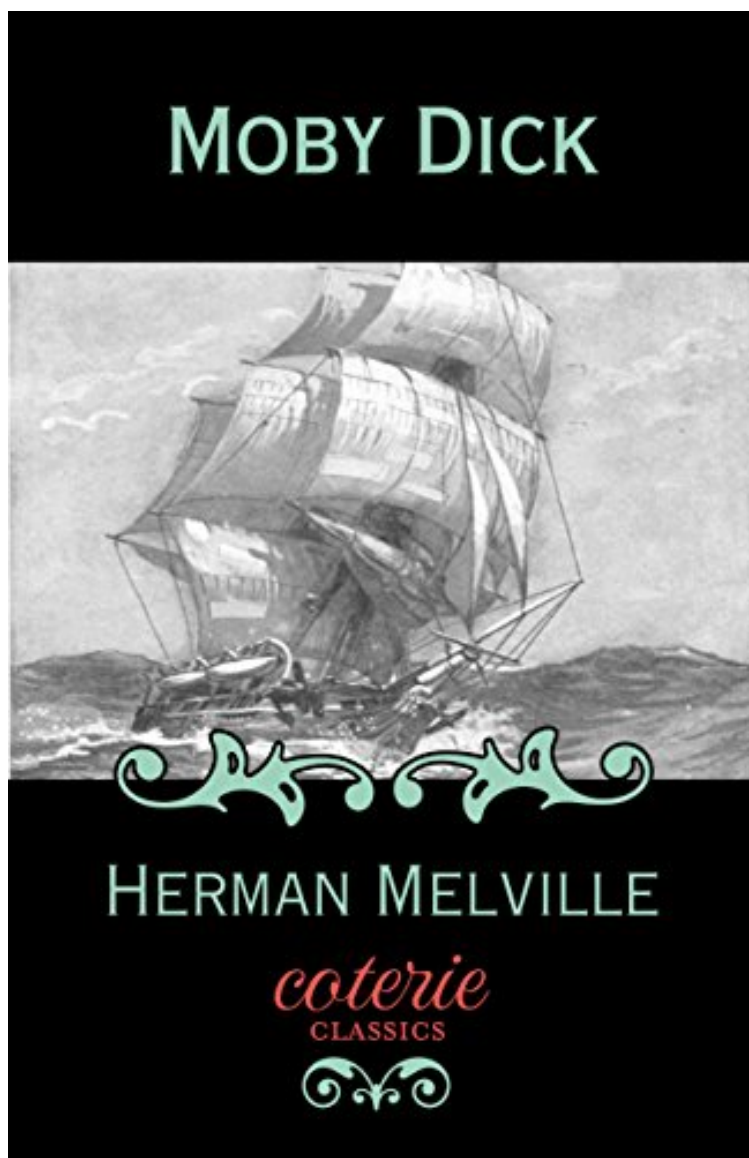


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Moby Dick



Par Herman Melville
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[Online library] Moby Dick

Par Herman Melville : *Moby Dick* before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Moby Dick*:

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Description : Description du produit *Moby-Dick* is generally regarded as its author's masterpiece and one of the greatest American novels. The basic plot of *Moby-Dick* is simple. The narrator (who asks to be called "Ishmael") tells of the last voyage of the ship *Pequod* out of New Bedford, Mass. Captain Ahab is obsessed with the pursuit of the white whale *Moby-Dick*, which finally kills him. On that level, the work is an intense, superbly authentic narrative. Its theme and central figure, however, are reminiscent of Job in his search for justice and of Oedipus in his search for truth. The novel's richly symbolic language and tragic hero are indicative of Melville's deeper concerns: the equivocal defeats and triumphs of the human spirit and its fusion of creative and murderous urges.

Prsentation de l'diteur *Moby Dick* by Herman Melville from Coterie Classics All Coterie Classics have been

formatted for ereaders and devices and include a bonus link to the free audio book. I try all things, I achieve what I can. Herman Melville, *Moby-Dick* Moby Dick by Herman Melville is about one captian's search for the white whale..frAvec Moby Dick, Melville a donn naissance un livre-culte et inscrit dans la mmoire des hommes un nouveau mythe: celui de la baleine blanche. Fort de son exprience de marin, qui a nourri ses romans prcdents et lui a assur le succs, l'crivain amricain, alors en pleine maturit, raconte la folle qute du capitaine Achab et sa dernire rencontre avec le grand cachalot. Vritable encyclopdie de la mer, nouvelle Bible aux accents prophtiques, parabole charge de thmes universels, Moby Dick n'en reste pas moins construit avec une savante matrise, maintenant un suspense lent, qui s'acclre peu peu jusqu' l'apocalypse finale. L'criture de Melville, infiniment libre et audacieuse, tour tour balance, puis hache au rythme des houles, des vents et des passions humaines, est d'une richesse exceptionnelle. Il faut remonter Shakespeare pour trouver l'exemple d'une langue aussi inventive, d'une posie aussi grandiose. --ScarboExtraitCall me Ishmael. This resonant opening of *Moby-Dick*, the greatest novel in American literature, announces the narrator, Herman Melville, as he with a measure of slyness thought of himself. In the Scriptures Ishmael, a wild man sired by the overwhelming patriarch Abraham, was nevertheless the bastard son of a serving girl Hagar. The author himself was the offspring of two distinguished American families, the Melvilles of Boston and the Gansevoorts of Albany. Melville's father cast something of a blight on the family escutcheon by his tendency to bankruptcy which passed down to his son. Dollars damn me, the son was to say over and over. When he sat down in the green landscape of Pittsfield, Massachusetts, to compose *Moby-Dick* he was in debt, the father of one son, and another to be born a few days after the publication of the novel in England.Melville had published five novels previous to *Moby-Dick*; the first two did well, and then with the capriciousness of the public the subsequent novels failed to please. He was a known literary figure with a fading reputation. How he came upon the courage to undertake the challenging creation of the epic battle between a sea creature, a white whale called Moby Dick, and an old captain from Nantucket by the name of Ahab is one of literature's triumphant mysteries. Add to that, as one reads, that he was only thirty-two years old.Ten years before, in 1841, he had signed up as a common seaman on the whaling vessel *Acushnet* bound for the South Seas. Young Ishmael was drawn by the lure of the sea and by the wonder of the whale itself, the Leviathan, the monarch of the deep, "one grand hooded phantom, like a snow hill in the air." Until the discovery of petroleum oil in 1859 and Thomas Edison's invention of the incandescent lamp in 1879, whaling was a major commercial occupation in New England. Fortunes were made, grand houses were built, often with a "widow's walk" on the roof that testified to the great dangers of the enterprise. For the crew, service on a whaler was a drastic life of unremitting labor; foul, crowded quarters; bad food in scanty servings; contractual terms for years at miserable wages; brutalized companions picked up from all the ports of the world; tyrannical captains practicing a "sultanism" which Melville abhorred. A ship afloat is after all a prison. Melville was on three whalers in his four years at sea and from each, as we read in *Typee* and *Omoo*, the struggle is to escape, as he did when the boats anchored near exotic islands. He wrote about the misery of the whaling life, but not about whaling itself until he came to *Moby-Dick*. His imaginary whaler, the *Pequod*, death bound as it is, would be called, for an ordinary seaman, an agreeable berth. Ahab has no interest left beyond his internal struggle with one whale.Still, there is whaling, the presumption of it. When a whale is sighted small boats are detached from the main vessel and the men engage in a deadly battle to try to match, with flying harpoons, the whale's immense strength and desperation. If the great thing is captured, the deck of the main ship becomes an abattoir of blood and guts. The thick blubber is to be stripped, the huge head to be drained of its oils for soothing ambergris, for candles; the bones of the carcass make their way into corsets and umbrellas and scrimshaw trinkets. *Moby-Dick* is a history of cetology, an encyclopedic telling of the qualities of the fin-back, the right whale, the hyena whale, the sperm whale, the killer whale, classified by size in mock academic form as folio, octavo, and so on.Information about a vanished world is one thing, but, above all else, this astonishing book is a human tragedy of almost supernatural suspensiveness, written in a rushing flow of imaginative language, poetical intensity, metaphor and adjective of consuming beauty. It begins on the cobbled streets of New Bedford, where Ishmael is to spend a few days before boarding the *Pequod* in Nantucket. The opening pages have a boyish charm as he is brought to share a bed with a fellow sailor, the harpooner Queequeg, an outrageously tattooed "primitive" who will be his companion throughout the narrative. Great ships under sail gave the old ports a rich heritage of myth, gossip, exaggeration, and rhetorical flights. Ishmael, on a Sunday, visits a whaleman's chapel to hear the incomparable sermon by Father Mapple on Jonah and the whale, a majestic interlude, one of many in this torrential outburst of fictional genius.As Ishmael and Queequeg proceed to Nantucket, the shadows of the

plot begin to fall upon the pages. The recruits are interviewed by two retired sailors who will struggle to express the complicated nature of Captain Ahab. We learn that he has lost a leg, chewed off by a whale, and thus the fated voyage of the Pequod begins. Ahab has lost his leg to a white whale Moby Dick and is consumed with a passion for retribution. He will hunt the singular whale as a private destiny in the manner of ancient kings in a legendary world. However, Ahab is real and in command. The chief mate, Starbuck, understands the folly of the quest, the danger of it, and, as a thoughtful man longing to return to his wife and children, he will speak again and again the language of reason. "Vengeance on a dumb beast that simply smote thee from the blindest instinct! Madness! To be enraged with a dumb thing, Captain Ahab, seems blasphemous." The necessity of Starbuck's human distance from the implacable imperative of Ahab's quest illustrates the brilliant formation of this harrowing tale. But it is Ahab's story, his destiny, and, if on the one hand, he is a shabby, sea-worn sailor long mesmerized by mercurial oceans, he too has a wife at home and a child of his old age. We learn, as the story proceeds, that on a time ashore after his terrible wounding, he had fallen and by way of his whalebone leg been unmanned. He has suffered an incapacity not to be peacefully borne by one who in forty years had spent only three on land. Ahab knows the wild unsuitability of his nature, his remove from the common life.