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# MOBY DICK

Herman Melville



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## WHO AM I?

I am a famous literary character. Can you guess my name from the clues below? Rate your familiarity with me as follows: If you can identify me from CLUE I, your score is superior; from CLUE II—excellent; from CLUE III—very good; from CLUE IV—good; from CLUE V—fair. If after CLUE V you still cannot identify me, I suggest you read the exciting story in which I appear.

**CLUE I:** I was an American explorer who hunted wild animals to capture them for zoos.

**CLUE II:** When I was a boy in Texas, I earned money collecting rattlesnakes for a man in Rochester, New York, who used rattlesnake oil to make rheumatism medicines. Later, I made a trip to South America.

**CLUE III:** I set up a permanent camp in the jungles of Malaya, where the animals I trapped were kept. The camp was full of life and excitement because we had to keep the animals healthy without letting them escape. Once, I received an order for two male elephants. To get them we had to capture a whole herd.

**CLUE IV:** We built a huge kraal, or pen, and strengthened it with heavy logs. Then, when a herd was near, we stampeded it into the kraal. With the help of tame elephants, we separated the ones we wanted, and afterward set the rest of the herd free.

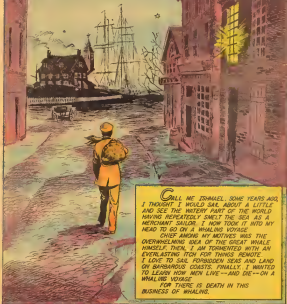
**CLUE V:** Another time, I captured a spitting cobra. He could shoot his poisonous venom as far as four feet. At camp, I noticed that the cobra was without water. As I tried to give him some, he shot. My eyes stung. I could not see, but I had to keep him from escaping. The exciting climax to my story can be found in my book, *On Jungle Trails*.

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# MOBY DICK

Herman Melville



CALL ME ISHMAEL. SOME YEARS AGO,  
I THOUGHT I WOULD SAIL ABOUT A LITTLE  
AND SEE THE WATERY PART OF THE WORLD  
HAVING REPEATEDLY SMELT THE SEA AS A  
MERCHANT SAILOR. I NOW TOOK IT INTO MY  
HEAD TO GO ON A WHALING VOYAGE.  
CHIEF AMONG MY MOTIVES WAS THE  
OVERWHELMING IDEA OF THE GREAT WHALE  
HIMSELF. THEN, I AM TORMENTED WITH AN  
EVERLASTING ITCH FOR THINGS REMOTE.  
I LOVE TO SAIL FORBIDDEN SEAS AND LAND  
OF BARBAROUS COASTS. FINALLY, I WANTED  
TO LEARN HOW MEN LIVE—AND DIE—ON A  
WHALING VOYAGE.

FOR THERE IS DEATH IN THIS  
BUSINESS OF WHALING.

I ARRIVED IN NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS, ON A SATURDAY NIGHT IN DECEMBER AND FOUND THAT THE PACKET FOR NANTUCKET WOULD NOT SAIL UNTIL MONDAY.

COFFIN RATHER OMINOUS, THAT BUT I MUST HAVE LODGING FOR THE NIGHT.



I SOUGHT THE LANDLORD ONLY TO LEARN.

THERE'S NOT AN EMPTY BED IN THE PLACE, BUT YOU HAVE NO OBJECTIONS TO SHARING ONE WITH A HARPOONER, HAVE YE?



RATHER THAN WANDER ABOUT ON SO BITTER A NIGHT, I'LL SHARE HALF OF ANY DECENT MAN'S BLANKET.

OH, HE'S DECENT ENOUGH. PAYS REGULAR, HE DOES.



WHERE IS HE NOW?

OUT TRYING TO SELL HIS HEAD, MUST BE HAVING A HARD TIME OF IT. IT'S BROKEN, YE KNOW.



WHAT'S BROKEN?

HIS HEAD, OF COURSE. BESIDES, THE MARKET'S OVERSTOCKED.





OVERSTOCKED?  
WITH WHAT?

WITH HEADS. AIN'T  
THERE TOO MANY  
HEADS IN THE WORLD?



LATER, I MOUNTED TO MY ROOM

THE LANDLORD TAKES ME FOR  
A FOOL. NO MAN WOULD TRY TO  
SELL HIS OWN HEAD—  
WHOLE OR BROKEN.

I TUMBLED INTO BED AND FELL ASLEEP,  
BUT WHEN NEXT I WOKE



THE NEXT MOMENT, HE HAD TAKEN OFF  
HIS CLOTHES, BLOWN OUT THE CANDLE  
AND PLUNGED INTO BED



LANDLORD! HELP!  
ANGELS SAVE ME!

MUST YE ROUSE THE WHOLE HOUSE?  
IS THAT A WAY TO GREET YOUR  
BEOMATE, AND QUEEQUEG A  
WHALING MAN LIKE YOURSELF?



QUEEQUEG, IS IT? WHY DON'T  
YOU TELL ME HE WAS A  
CANNIBAL AND A HEADHUNTER?



WHEN THE LANDLORD LEFT



YOU  
GET IN

WHY MAKE THIS FUSS?  
HE'S A HUMAN BEING,  
JUST AS I AM.



I TURNED IN, AND NEVER SLEPT BETTER  
IN MY LIFE, THE NEXT MORNING.



HARPOON MAKE  
GOOD RAZOR.

WHEN QUEEGUES HAD FINISHED



WE BE SHIPMATES. SMOKE  
FRIENDSHIP SMOKE TOGETHER.

I TOOK A SOCIAL RUFF, THEN



WE TOUGH HEADS, NOW  
WE BLOOD BROTHERS.

SO QUEEGUES AND I BECAME BOSCH  
FRIENDS. ARM IN ARM, WE BOARDED  
THE PACKET FOR MANTUCKET ON  
MONDAY MORNING.



**I** IN NANTUCKET, QUEEGUES LEFT TO ME THE TASK OF FINDING US A WHALER.

THERE'S A NOBLE OLD CRAFT BUT MELANCHOLY, TOO.



**I** STEPPED ABOARD.

IS THIS THE CAPTAIN OF THE PEQUOD?

SUPPOSING IT BE? WHAT DOST THOU WANT OF HIM?



I WANT TO SHIP WITH YOU.

DOST THOU, NOW! AND WHY?



I WANT TO SEE WHAT WHALING IS, CAPTAIN.

I BE PELEG, PART OWNER OF THIS VESSEL, NOT ITS CAPTAIN. CLAP AN EYE ON ITS CAPTAIN, LAD, AND THOU SHALT SEE HE HAS BUT ONE LEG.



LOST BY A WHALE?

NOT LOST! — DEVoured, CHEWED UP, CRUNCHED BY THE MOST MONSTROUS WHALE THAT EVER CHIPPED A BOAT!



WANT TO SEE WHAT WHALING IS, LAD? THEN LOOK WELL ON CAPTAIN AHAH.





THOU MAYEST AS WELL SIGN THE PAPERS. COME BELOW AND MEET THEE BILDAD, MY PARTNER.



BILDAD, LIKE PELES, WAS A NANTUCKET GUARD, AND A RETIRED WHALING CAPTAIN.

STILL, STUDYING THE SCRIPTURES, EH, BILDAD?—HERE BE A MAN WHO WANTS TO SHIP ON THE *PEQUOD*.



DOST THEE ?

: DOST



HE'LL DO. BUT CONSIDER THE WIDOWS AND ORPHANS WHO OWN SHARES IN THE *PEQUOD*. PAY HIM NOT OVERWELL.



BLAST YE, BILDAD, HAD I FOLLOWED THEE IN SUCH MATTERS, MY CONSCIENCE AFORE NOW WOULD HAVE WREKED ME TO THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA!



**THE NEXT MORNING, I TOOK QUEUEES ABOARD THE PLUGG.**

WHAT A HARPOON HE'S GOT THERE! I SAY, QUORNO, OR WHATEVER YOUR NAME IS, DID YOU EVER STRIKE A FISH?



YOU SEE SMALL DROP TAR ON THERE? SUPPOSE HIM WHALE.



**HE TOOK SHARP AIM AND**



**HE STRUCK THE TAR SPOT OUT OF SIGHT.**



QUICK, BILDAD, GET THE SHIP'S PAPERS. WE MUST HAVE HEDGEHOGS HERE IN ONE OF OUR BOATS!



QUICKLY HAVING SIGNED ON,  
HE LEFT THE PEGGOD. THEY...

SHIPMATES, HAVE YE  
SHIPPED IN THAT SHIP?

YES, WE  
HAVE JUST  
SIGNED  
THE  
PAPERS.

ANYTHING  
DOWN THERE  
ABOUT YOUR  
SOULS? OR  
HAVE YE  
NONE TO  
LOSE?

LET'S GO. THIS  
FELLOW HAS  
BROKEN LOOSE  
FROM SOMEWHERE.



YE HAVEN'T SEEN  
CAPTAIN AHAB,  
HAVE YE? THEY  
SAY HE HAS A  
SICKNESS.

IF SO, MY FRIEND,  
HE'LL BE WELL  
AGAIN BEFORE  
WE SAIL.

WELL AGAIN? AHAB WELL AGAIN?  
THAT DAY SHALL THIS ARM BE WELL  
AGAIN--NOT BEFORE! YE'VE SIGNED,  
HAVE YE? THEN GOD PITY YE--  
AND ALL WHO BOARD  
THAT CURSED SHIP.



**A** DAY OR TWO PASSED, AND THERE WAS GREAT ACTIVITY ABOARD THE PEQUOD. MUCH PREPARATION IS NEEDED TO STOCK A WHALER OFF ON A THREE YEARS' VOYAGE. BUT AT LAST, ON CHRISTMAS DAY, THE PEQUOD WAS READY TO SAIL.

CAPTAIN WHAD IS ALL RIGHT I JUST SPOKE TO HIM IN HIS CABIN.

WELL, CALL ALL HANDS, THEN. LET THEM SAIL.



*PELGS AND BILDAD SAID FAREWELL TO THE GRIEF MATE . . .*

LUCK TO YE, MR. STARBUCK!



*. . . TO THE SECOND MATE . . .*

LUCK TO YE, MR. STUBB!



*. . . TO THE THIRD MATE . . .*

LUCK TO YE, MR. FLASK.



*. . . AND TO THE CREW . . .*

GOD BLESS YE, AND HAVE YE IN HIS HOLY KEEPING, MEN!



SHIP AND SHORE DIVERGED.  
WE GAVE THREE HEAVY-  
HEARTED CHEERS AND  
BLINDLY PLUNGED LIKE  
FATE INTO THE LONE  
ATLANTIC.



FOR SEVERAL DAYS, NOTHING WAS SEEN OF CAPTAIN AHAH

WE'LL SEE HIM SOON ENOUGH,  
AND CLOSE ENOUGH, MARK IT WELL.

AYE, CAPTAIN AHAH IS  
A HARD MAN, THAT  
BE KNOWN.



MR. STARBUCK,  
SIR, YOU KNOW  
OUR CAPTAIN.  
WHAT MANNER  
OF MAN IS HE?

WHAT PRATTLE IS THIS?  
YOUR CAPTAIN IS A MAN  
LIKE ANY OTHER, HE  
SPEAKS NOT MUCH, BUT  
WHEN HE DOES, THEN  
YOU MAY WELL LISTEN.  
NOW, BACK TO  
YOUR WORK!

BUT AS OUR CHIEF MATE TURNED AWAY,  
I HEARD HIM MUTTER

A MAN LIKE ANY OTHER? HAY,  
WHATEVER ELSE AHAH BE, HE  
IS ABOVE THE COMMON--A GRAND,  
UNDOUBTLY, GOD-LIKE MAN.



**THEN ONE DAY, AS I MOUNTED TO THE DECK FOR THE FORENOON WATCH, FOREDOOMING SHIVERS RAN OVER ME. CAPTAIN AHAH STOOD UPON HIS QUARTER-DECK.**



**HE LOOKED LIKE A MAN CUT AWAY FROM THE STAKE, WHEN THE FIRE HAD WASTED ALL THE LIMBS WITHOUT CONSUMING THEM.**

HE HAS A CRUCIFIXION IN HIS FACE.

AYE, HE CARRIES WITH HIM SOME MIGHTY WOE.



**HE STOOD ERECT, LOOKING STRAIGHT OUT BEYOND THE SHIP'S PROW.**

THAT GLANCE IS FIXED AND FEARLESS.

YOU'RE DAFT, LAD. 'T IS BUT THE WHITENESS OF HIS WHALEBONE LEG THAT MAKES HIM SEEM GRIM.



THAT'S RIGHT. AHAH HAS A WIFE AND CHILD IN NANTUCKET. HE'S HUMAN JUST LIKE ANY OTHER MAN.



WE CONTINUED ON OUR VOYAGE SOUTH. THEN ONE DAY, AHDAB GAVE AN ASTERISHING ORDER.

MR FLASK, SEND EVERYBODY AFT.



WHEN ALL THE MEN WERE ASSEMBLED . . .

SEE YE THIS PIECE OF GOLD? WHOSOEVER OF YE FIRST SPIES A MONSTROUS WHITE WHALE WITH A WRINKLED BROW AND A CROOKED JAW—WHOSOEVER RAISES THAT WHITE WHALE SHALL HAVE THIS GOLD!



HE HAILED THE GOLD PIECE TO THE MAIN-MAST.

DOES CAPTAIN MEAN THE WHITE WHALE THAT SOME CALL MOBY DICK?



MOBY DICK? YE KNOW THE WHITE WHALE, THEN?

CAPTAIN AHDAB, WAS IT NOT MOBY DICK WHO TOOK OFF THY LEG?



WHO TOLD THEE THAT?



AYE, STARBUCK, IT WAS THAT ACCURSED WHITE WHALE THAT DISMASTED ME. AND I'LL CHASE HIM ROUND GOOD HOPE, AND ROUND THE HORN, AND ROUND HELL'S FLAMES BEFORE I GIVE HIM UP!



THIS IS WHAT YE HAVE SHIPPED FOR, MEN, TO CHASE THAT WHITE WHALE OVER ALL SIDES OF THE EARTH, TILL HE SPOUTS BLACK BLOOD AND ROLLS FIN OUT! ARE YE GAME?

AYE, AYE!

A SHARP EYE FOR THE WHITE WHALE.

A SHARP LANCE FOR MORY DICK!



I AM GAME FOR THE JAWS OF DEATH, CAPTAIN, BUT I CAME HERE TO HUNT WHALES, NOT MY CAPTAIN'S VENGEANCE.

HOW MANY BARRELS OF OIL WILL THY VENGEANCE YIELD THEE ON THE NANTUCKET MARKET?

THAT DUMB BRUTE SIMPLY SHOT THEE FROM BLINDEST INSTINCT! TO SEEK VENGEANCE ON A DUMB THING, CAPTAIN AHAB, SEEMS BLASPHEMOUS.



TALK NOT TO ME OF  
BLASPHEMY! I'D STRIKE  
THE SUN IF IT  
INSULTED ME!



THINK NOT TO SWERVE ME. WHAT I'VE  
DARED, I'VE WILLED, AND WHAT I'VE  
WILLED, I'LL DO. NOW BACK TO THY  
POSTS. AND EVERY EYE FOR MOBY DICK!



GOD HAVE PITY ON HIS  
MADNESS — AND MERCY  
ON US ALL.



*D*AYS,  
WEEKS  
PASSED.  
THERE  
WAS NO  
SIGN OF  
MOBY DICK,  
THOUGH  
EACH MAN  
KEPT THAT  
WHITE  
MONSTER  
WELL IN  
MIND.  
BUT WE  
WERE  
WHALING  
MERRY,  
AND  
THERE  
WERE  
OTHER  
WHALES  
ONE  
DAY

THERE SHE  
BLOWS!





**I**MMEDIATELY, THE BOATS WERE LOWERED AND THE CHASE BEGAN.

ROW, MY  
HEARTIES,  
ROW!

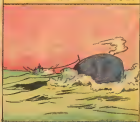


**T**HEN . . .

THERE'S HIS HUMP!  
STAND UP, QUEEGUES,  
AND GIVE IT TO HIM!



**N**OW OUR LITTLE BOAT CHURNED WILDLY THROUGH THE WATER, HELD FAST TO THE WHALE BY THE HARPOON LINE.



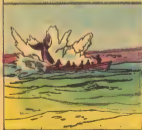
**STUBB AND QUEEGUES QUICKLY CHANGED PLACES, WITH QUEEGUES NOW STEERING AND STUBB PREPARING FOR THE KILL.**



**THEN STUBB THRUST HIS LONG SHARP LANCE INTO THE WHALE.**



**OVER AND OVER TURNED THE GREAT BEAST, CHANGING THE DEER TO FURY.**



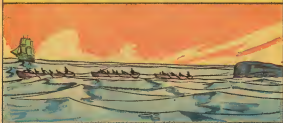
**AT LAST...**

**HIS PIPE AND MINE—  
BOTH SMOKED OUT.**

**HE DEAD,  
MR. STUBB.**



**T**HE MONSTER, A SPERM WHALE, WAS KILLED SOME DISTANCE FROM THE SHIP. THE THREE BOATS BEGAN THE SLOW BUSINESS OF TOWING THE TROPHY TO THE PEQUOD.



**T**HE WHALE WAS LASHED TO THE PEQUOD'S SIDE, BEFORE STRIPPING IT OF ITS BLUBBER, ITS HEAD WAS SEVERED AND HELD ASTERN BY A CABLE.



**T**HEN ... LET THERE BE NO DELAY IN STRIPPING THE BEAST, THESE SHARKS WILL SOON LEAVE US NOTHING BUT A SKELETON.



**A** HOOK WAS INSERTED IN THE WHALE'S BODY, THEN THE CREW BEGAN TO HEAVE AT THE WINDLASS.



**I**NSTANTLY, THE ENTIRE SHIP CAREENED OVER ON HER SIDE.



AT LAST, A SWIFT SNAP WAS HEARD. THE SHIP ROLLED UPRIGHT, AND THE TACKLE BEGAN STRIPPING OFF THE BLUBBER.



THEN . . .

HAUL IN THE CHAINS!  
LET THE CARCASS  
GO ASTERN.



THE PEELED WHITE BODY OF THE WHALE WAS SET ADRIFT.

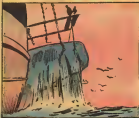
FIRST PREY TO MAN, THEN  
PREY TO SEA-VULTURES  
AND SHARKS.



NEXT CAME THE BALING OF THE CASE. THE SPERM WHALE IS UNLIKE ANY OTHER WHALE. ITS HEAD IS A CASE CONTAINING THE MOST PRECIOUS OF ALL WHALE OIL -- SPERMACELE.



THE HEAD WAS HOISTED AGAINST THE DECK'S SIDE -- ABOUT HALF-WAY OUT OF THE SEA.



ONE OF THE MEN STOOD ON THE SUMMIT OF THE HEAD. A BUCKET WAS HOISTED UP TO HIM.



HE GUIDED THE BUCKET INTO THE CASE.



WHEN THE BUCKET CAME UP AGAIN, IT WAS BUBBLING WITH THE VALUABLE SPERMACEITY.



THIS WAS EMPTIED INTO A LARGE TUB.



SUDDENLY...





AT THAT INSTANT, THE HOOKS HOLDING THE HEAD TOPE OUT, AND THE ENORMOUS MASS DROPPED INTO THE SEA.



BOY BRAVE QUEEGUES DIVE TO THE RESCUE.



DIVING AFTER THE SLOWLY DESCENDING HEAD, QUEEGUES MADE A HOLE NEAR ITS BOTTOM.



THEN . . .



**A** MOMENT LATER

IT IS BOTH! HE  
PULLED HIM CLEAR  
FROM HIS COFFIN!



AYE WOULD THAT  
WE ALL COULD AS  
EASILY BE PULLED  
FROM OURS.



**THAT** NIGHT, THE TRY POTS WERE LIGHTED THEY BURNED THE BLUBBER OF THE WHALE UNTIL  
IT HAD YIELDED ITS LAST DROP OF OIL.



**AND** THE WHALER, LADEN WITH FIRE AND BURNING A CORPSE, PLUNGED  
THROUGH THE DARKNESS.



SOME WEEKS LATER, PAST THE ISLAND OF SUMATRA . . .



THERE SHE BLOWS!  
A WHOLE HERD OF THEM!

WE SPRANG TO THE BOATS AND GAVE CHASE.



THEY MUST KNOW  
WE'RE AFTER THEM,  
THEY HAVE DOUBLED  
THEIR PACE.

SUDDENLY, THE HERD PANICKED. ROUND THEY WENT LIKE BLIND THINGS, IN A VAST AND WILD CIRCLE.



WE WENT FOR A LONE WHALE ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE CIRCLE. THE HARPOON FOUND ITS MARK. THEN . . .



HE'S TOWING US  
RIGHT INTO THE  
HERD!



**T**HE WHALE PLUNGED FORWARD, PULLING OUR BOAT LIKE A WHITE GASH THROUGH THE SEA OF MONSTERS.



**W**E KNEW NOT AT WHAT MOMENT WE MIGHT BE LOCKED IN AND CRUSHED.



**Q**UEEGUEE AND STARBUCK CHANGED PLACES. NOT A BIT DAUNTED, QUEEGUEE STEERED US MANFULLY.



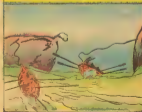
THE TOWING WHALE FINALLY FREED HIMSELF OF THE HARPOON, AND WE GLIDED INTO THE OVERMOST HEART OF THE CIRCLE FORMED BY THE WHALES.



LIKE HOUSEHOLD DOGS, THE WHALES CAME SHUFFLING ROUND US



WHILE SURROUNDED BY THE WHALES, WE  
DARED NOT LANCE ANY FOR FEAR WE  
MIGHT BE CRUSHED IN THE RESULTING  
PANIC, BUT WHEN THE HERD DISPERSED,



LATER

THE PEQUOD HAS  
HAD A GOOD CATCH  
THIS DAY.



DAYS LATER, AS THE PEGUDD WAS  
NEARING CHINA WATERS

THE OIL CASKS IN THE  
HOLD ARE LEAKING,  
MR. STARBUCK. WE  
WILL HAVE TO STOP  
TO PLUG THEM

I WILL  
REPORT IT TO  
CAPTAIN AHAB



AHAB HEARD STARBUCK'S FOOTSTEP  
AT THE DOOR

BEHOLD!



IT IS I, CAPTAIN AHAB  
THE OIL IN THE HOLD IS  
LEAKING, SIR WE MUST  
STOP TO FIND THE LEAK.



NOW THAT WE ARE  
NEAR THE WATERS  
WHERE MOBY DICK  
MAY LIE, STOP TO  
TINKER WITH  
LEAKING CASKS?

EITHER THAT, SIR, OR WASTE  
IN ONE DAY MORE OIL THAN  
WE MAY FIND IN A YEAR.  
WHAT WE GAVE 20,000  
MILES TO GET IS WORTH  
SAVING, SIR.

SO IT IS, IF  
WE GET IT



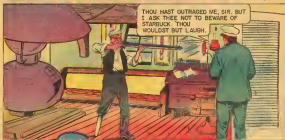


Then

THERE IS ONE GOD THAT IS LORD OVER THE EARTH, AND ONE CAPTAIN THAT IS LORD OVER THE *PEQUOD* -- ON DECK!



THOU HAST OUTRAGED ME, SIR, BUT I ASK THEE NOT TO BEWARE OF STARBUCK THOU WOULDST BUT LAUGH.



BUT LET AHAH BEWARE OF AHAH, BEWARE OF THYSELF, OLD MAN!



As STARBUCK DISAPPEARED

WHAT'S THAT HE SAID? AHAH BEWARE OF AHAH? THERE'S SOMETHING THERE.



**THE VOYAGE OF THE PEQUOD CONTINUED.  
ONE DAY**

BLACKSMITH, CANST  
THOU FORGE ME A  
HARPOON?

AYE,  
SIR



I FEAR SOMETHING,  
CAPTAIN AHAS, IS NOT  
THIS HARPOON FOR  
THE WHITE WHALE?

FOR THE  
WHITE  
FIEND!



FOR THE DEW, THOU SHALT  
USE MY RAZORS, FOR NOW I  
NEITHER SHAVE NOR PRAY  
UNTIL BUT HERE -- TO WORK!

**LATER, WHEN THE HARPOON WAS  
READY TO BE TEMPERED**

I BAPTIZE THEE IN  
THE NAME OF THE DEVIL!

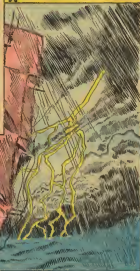


**WE SOON WERE SAILING IN THE JAPANESE SEAS.**

WARM CLIMES NURSE CRUEL FRIGS.  
A TYPHOON MIGHT AT ANY MOMENT  
BURST FROM THAT CLOUDLESS SKY.



**AND THAT AFTERNOON**



**THE FEJOCO WAS TORN OFF HER CANVAS,  
WHEN DARKNESS CAME ON, SKY AND  
SEA ROARED AND SPLIT WITH THUNDER,  
AND BLAZED WITH LIGHTNING.**



*ON DECK, IN A MOMENT OF PROFOUND DARKNESS . . .*

WHO'S THERE?



OLD THUNDER!



*SUDDENLY . . .*

LOOK ALOFT!



*AT EACH TRI-POINTED LIGHTNING ROD END, EACH OF THE THREE TALL MASTS WAS SILENTLY GLOWING.*





*THIS PHENOMENON, CALLED THE CORPOSANTS, WAS NOT UNCOMMON AT SEA, BUT THE CREW WATCHED AS IF ENCHANTED.*

IT IS AN ILL OMEN.

THE CORPOSANTS HAVE MERCY ON US ALL!



A YE, MEN! LOOK UP AT IT! THE WHITE FLAME BUT LIGHTS THE WAY TO THE WHITE WHALE!



*THEN AHAU TOOK THE BOTTOM LINK OF THE MAIN-MAST LIGHTNING ROD.*

I WOULD FAIR FEEL THY PULSE, AND LET MINE BEAT AGAINST IT—BLOOD AGAINST FIRE!



*HE STOOD ERECT BEFORE THE LIGHTED MASTS.*

LEAP! LEAP UP AND LICK THE SKY! I LEAP WITH THEE; I BURN WITH THEE!



*THEN*

THY HARPOON! THY HARPOON! LOOK!



**A** BALL OF FIRE BLOMED FROM  
AHAB'S HARPOON.



TURN BACK, OLD MAN!  
GOD IS AGAINST THEE!

YES—LET US  
TURN BACK!



*AHAB SNATCHED HIS FERY HARPOON.*

ALL YOUR OATHS TO HUNT THE  
WHITE WHALE ARE AS BINDING AS  
MINE--AND HEART, SOUL, AND  
BODY, LUNGS AND LIFE, OLD  
AHAB IS BOUND.



LOOK YE HERE; THIS  
I BLOW OUT THE LAST  
FEAR.



**A**ND WITH ONE BREATH, HE EXTINGUISHED  
THE FLAME.



BY DAWN, THE STORM HAD ABATED, AND NEW SAILS CARRIED THE PEQUOD BACK ON HER COURSE. STARBUCK WENT BELOW TO WAKE AHAB.

I COME TO WAKE HIM TO A FAIR WIND AYE, FAIR FOR MOBY DICK! FAIR FOR OUR DEATH AND DOOM!



BUT HOW TO STOP HIM? PUT HIM IN CHAINS? THAT GRAND OLD MAN WOULD BE MORE PITIED THAN A CAGED TIGER. I COULD NOT ENDURE THE SIGHT!



THIS MUSKET! THE VERY ONE HE POINTED AT ME!



SHALL THIS CRAZY OLD MAN DRAG A WHOLE SHIP'S COMPANY DOWN TO OOH WITH HIM? WOULD I A MURDERER BE IF . . .



THEN AHAB CRIED OUT FROM A TORMENTED SLEEP.

OH, MOBY DICK, I CLUTCH THY HEART AT LAST!



AND STARBUCK PLACED THE DEATH-TUBE IN ITS RACK, AND LEFT.



**A FEW DAYS LATER, THE PEDGOD MET THE RACHEL, ANOTHER WHALER OUT OF NANTUCKET. AHAD KNEW THE CAPTAIN.**

HAST SEEN THE WHITE WHALE?

AYE, YESTERDAY



**THE RACHEL'S CAPTAIN BOARDED THE PEDGOD.**

WHERE WAS HE? YOU'VE NOT KILLED HIM, HAVE YE?



NAVY. THAT WHITE MONSTER TOWED OFF A BOAT OF MINE. YE MUST HELP ME FIND IT!



IS HE MAD? WHO EVER HEARD OF TWO WHALE SHIPS SEARCHING FOR ONE MISSING WHALEBOAT IN THE HEIGHT OF THE WHALING SEASON?



FOR FORTY-EIGHT HOURS, LET ME CHARTER YOUR SHIP—I WILL GLADLY PAY FOR IT YOU MUST HELP ME FIND THAT BOAT!



MY SON—MY OWN SON WAS ON IT



OH! IT'S HIS SON HE'S LOST.  
THEN WE MUST SAVE THE BOY.



*BUT AHAB SAID NOTHING.*

I WILL NOT GO UNTIL YOU SAY AYE  
TO ME. MY LAD WAS BUT TWELVE  
YEARS OLD. YOU, TOO, HAVE A BOY,  
CAPTAIN AHAB. YOU MUST HELP ME!



I WILL NOT DO IT EVEN NOW  
I LOSE TIME. THE WHITE WHALE  
IS NEAR, AND I MUST GO.



*AND AHAB WENT TO HIS CABIN.*

OUR PRAYERS  
ARE WITH THEE,  
CAPTAIN.

PRAY NOT FOR ME,  
FOR FOR MY SON.  
PRAY YE FOR HIM.



*T*HE CAPTAIN WENT  
BACK TO HIS SHIP.  
AS LONG AS THE RACHEL  
WAS IN VIEW, HE KNEW  
BY HER HALTING COURSE  
THAT SHE HAD NOT  
FOUND WHAT SHE  
SOUGHT.



LATER THAT DAY, ON DECK . . .

AH, STARBUCK, 'T IS A M.I.G. SWEET DAY, SUCH A ONE AS DOES MY DEAR WIFE EVER LOVE.



WIFE? RATHER A WIDOW, WITH HER HUSBAND YET ALIVE, SO LITTLE AM I AT HER SIDE



I SEE THINE OWN WIFE AND CHILD IN THINE EYES THOU SHALT LIVE TO SEE THEM, STARBUCK WHEN BRANDED AHAH GIVES CHASE TO MOBY DICK, STAY ON BOARD THE PEGGOD THE HAZARD SHALL NOT BE THINE



MY CAPTAIN, GIVE UP THE QUEST OF THAT HATED FISH! RETURN TO *MY* SWEET WIFE

OH, STARBUCK, WHAT HIDDEN MASTER DOTH COMMAND ME? I DO NOT WHAT I WISH, BUT WHAT I MUST!



AHAH GROWS OLD THESE GRAY HAIRS DO BLIND HIM SO THAT HE WOULD SEEM TO WEEP



**D**AYS PASSED. THEY HAD SUDDENLY  
THRUST OUT HIS FACE FERCELY,  
SNUFFING UP THE SEA AIR.

IT IS NEAR. HOIST  
ME TO THE MAST

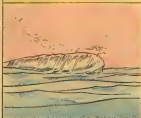


**T**HEN . . .

THERE SHE BLOWS! THERE SHE BLOWS! A HUMP LIKE A SNOW-HILL. IT IS MOSTY DICK!



**S**OON HIS ENTIRE GAZZLING HUMP WAS  
VISIBLE, SLIDING ALONG THE SEA



**A**ND ON THE PEQUOD . . .

THE GOLD COIN IS MINE! I ALONE COULD SPY THE WHITE WHALE FIRST!



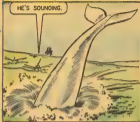
LOWER THE BOATS! LOWER THE BOATS! AFTER HIM!



MR STARBUCK, REMEMBER--- STAY ON BOARD!



THREE BOATS WERE DROPPED AND THE CHASE BEGAN. THEN



WHILE WE WAITED FOR HIM TO REAPPEAR, AHAH WENT TO THE BOW OF THE BOAT, AND QUEEGLEG TOOK OVER THE STEERING GEAR. SUDDENLY



LYING ON HIS BACK, THE WHALE TOOK THE BOW OF THE BOAT WITHIN HIS MOUTH.



ONE OF HIS TEETH CAUGHT IN A ROW LOCK



HELPLESS IN THE VERY JAWS HE HATED, AHAH SEIZED THE LONG BONE AND TRIED TO BRENCH IT FROM ITS GRIP.

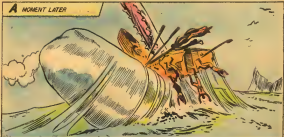




THEN THE JAW SLIPPED FROM HIM AND . . .



A MOMENT LATER



THEN THE WHITE WHALE SWAM OFF, AND THE OTHER BOATS FLEW TO THE RESCUE.



**THE CHASE CONTINUED THE NEXT DAY.**

WHY SING YE  
HOT OUT  
FOR HIM?

I' SEE  
HIM NOT.



SWAY ME UP, MEN.  
YE HAVE BEEN  
DECEIVED.



**THEN . . .**

THERE SHE  
BLOWS!



**A FEW MINUTES LATER . . .**

THERE SHE  
BREACHES!



BREACH YOUR LAST, MOBY DICK!  
THT HOUR AND THY HARPOON  
ARE AT HAND!



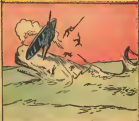
LOWER AWAY! —  
MR. STARBUCK, THE  
SHIP IS THERE.



**A** SPARE BOAT HAD BEEN PREPARED THE PREVIOUS AFTERNOON, AND ONCE MORE THREE CREWS TOOK UP THE CHASE. BUT MOBY DICK RUSHED AMONG THE BOATS WITH A LASHING TAIL, AND



**T**HEN HE DASHED HIS HEAD AGAINST AHA'S BOAT.



**S**ATISFIED THAT HIS WORK WAS DONE, THE WHALE SWAM AWAY, AS THE PEQUOD CAME TO THE RESCUE OF THE MEN AND BOATS.



**T**HEN . . . WILT THOU DRAG US ALL TO THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA? NEVER, NEVER WILT THOU CAPTURE HIM!



I'LL TEN TIMES GIRDLE THE UNMEASURED GLOBE; YEA, AND DIVE STRAIGHT THROUGH IT, BUT I'LL SLAY HIM YET!



**THE MORNING OF THE THIRD DAY DAWNED  
FAIR AND FRESH.**



SWAY ME UP, WE  
SHOULD MEET  
HIM SOON.

**AN HOUR PASSED. THEN**



THERE SHE BLOWS! I MEET  
THEE THIS THIRD TIME,  
MOBY DICK!

**AS THE MEN PREPARED TO LOWER  
THE BOATS**



STARBUCK, FOR THE THIRD  
TIME MY SOUL'S SHIP STARTS  
UPON THIS VOYAGE.

AYE,  
SIR.



I AM OLD  
SHAKE HANDS  
WITH ME, MAN.

OH, MY CAPTAIN!  
DO NOT!



IT IS NOT TOO LATE, EVEN NOW, TO  
DESIST. MOBY DICK SEEKS THEE NOT.  
IT IS THOU, THOU, THAT  
MADLY SEEKEST HIM!



I MUST GO.—  
LOWER AWAY!

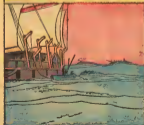
ONCE MORE THE THREE BOATS DARTED FORWARD TO THE ATTACK.



MOBY DICK CAME HEAD ON, SPLINNING TWO BOATS, BUT LEAVING AHAH'S WITHOUT A SCAR.



THE TWO BROKEN BOATS WERE HOISTED BACK ON THE PEQUOD FOR REPAIRS.



AS AHAH'S LONE BOAT CONTINUED THE CHASE, IT WAS SURROUNDED BY SHARKS.

WHO CAN TELL WHETHER THESE SHARKS SIGH TO FEAST ON THE WHALE OR ON AHAH.



HEARING THE RUSH OF THE SEA-CRASHING BOAT, MOBY DICK TURNED ROUND.



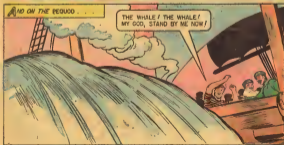
BUT CATCHING SIGHT OF THE PEQUOD, HE BORE DOWN UPON ITS ADVANCING PROW.

THE SHIP! HE'S GOING  
TO RAM THE SHIP!



AND ON THE PEQUOD . . .

THE WHALE! THE WHALE!  
MY GOD, STAND BY ME NOW!





DEATH-GLORIOUS SHIP! MUST  
YE THEN PERISH, AND WITHOUT  
ME? OH LONELY DEATH  
ON LONELY LIFE!



TOWARDS THEE I ROLL, THOU ALL-  
DESTROYING BUT UNCONQUERABLE  
WHALE TO THE LAST I GRAPPLE  
WITH THEE; FROM HELL'S HEART  
I STAB AT THEE; FOR HATE'S  
SAKE I SPIT MY LAST  
BREATH AT THEE.



THUS, I GIVE  
UP THE SPEAR!



THE HARPOON HAS DARTED; THE  
STRICKEN WHALE FLEW FORWARD.





THEY THE HARPOON LINE RAN FOLL, ANAB  
STOOPED TO CLEAR IT, AND A FLYING  
TORN CAUGHT HIM.



HE WAS SHOT OUT OF THE BOAT BEFORE  
THE CREW KNEW HE WAS GONE.



AND NOW THE SUCTION CAUSED BY THE SINKING PELOUO SEIZED THE LONE BOAT AND  
CARRIED EVERY CHIP OUT OF SIGHT.



AND THE GREAT SHROUD OF THE SEA  
ROLLED ON AS IT ROLLED BLOOD  
YEARS AGO.



ONLY I, ISHMAEL, SURVIVED THE WRECK.  
THE NEXT DAY, A SHIP PICKED ME UP.  
IT WAS THE RACHEL, WHICH IN HER  
SEARCH FOR HER MISSING CHILDREN, ONLY  
FOUND ANOTHER DRIFTER.



THE END

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## HERMAN MELVILLE



first voyage.

Born in 1819, Melville left school at the age of fifteen, tried clerking and teaching, and then, still in his teens, ran off to sea and shipped as a cabin boy on a merchant ship bound for England. When he returned to America, he taught school for a while. Then the "everlasting itch for things remote" took hold of him, and, like Ishmael in *Moby Dick*, Melville signed up for a whaling voyage.

After eighteen months aboard the *Acushnet*, Melville jumped ship in the Marquesas Islands in the South Pacific Ocean. He did this partly as a protest against the hardships of a whaler's life, and partly because he wanted to explore the islands.

For several months, Melville lived with the Tapa, natives whom he said were cannibals. Whether he was their guest or captive is not clear. In any case, he eventually left the islands in an Australian schooner. The story of his stay in the Marquesas can be found in his book, *Typee*.

Melville's next adventures, a mutiny in which he was a ringleader, and a year as a beachcomber on the island of Tahiti, were later set down in his book, *Omoo*.

In 1842, Melville went to the Hawaiian Islands, where he worked as a clerk and bookkeeper. Soon, however, his old whale ship, the *Acushnet*, arrived in Honolulu, and its captain began to look for deserters.

Perhaps to avoid being snatched back into

whaling service, Melville signed, as a common seaman on an American man-of-war. Fourteen months later, his ship sailed into Boston harbor.

Melville now settled down to being a serious writer. After the publication of *Typee* and *Omoo*, he became famous as the man who escaped from the cannibals. His next books were *Martin Redburn* and *White-Jacket*. *White-Jacket* is an account of his life aboard the American man-of-war. It is a protest against the brutalities, especially floggings, which were then in practice aboard American naval vessels.

In 1847, Melville married the daughter of the Chief Justice of Massachusetts. A few years later, he and his family moved to a farm near Pittsfield, Massachusetts. There he became friends with Nathaniel Hawthorne, the famous author of *The Scarlet Letter* and *The House of the Seven Gables*. Melville dedicated his masterpiece, *Moby Dick*, to Hawthorne.

*Moby Dick* was published in 1851. It is based on Melville's own experiences aboard the *Acushnet*, upon his extensive studies of the whaling industry and upon his knowledge of the story of a white whale called Mocha Dick. This whale got his name from the island of Mocha, which is off the coast of Chile.

Other books followed *Moby Dick*. They included *Pierre*, *The Confidence-Man* and *Silly Sould*. But Melville's popularity as a writer declined in his later years. In 1866 he was forced to earn his living as a customs inspector in New York City. He held this post for nineteen years. When he died, in 1891, his works were almost completely forgotten.

In the 1920's, however, there was a revival of interest in Melville's writings. He is now recognized as one of America's literary men of genius. And *Moby Dick* is today acclaimed as one of the greatest, and possibly the greatest, of American novels.

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28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56
57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85
86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114
115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143
144	145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

(Please print)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zone \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_