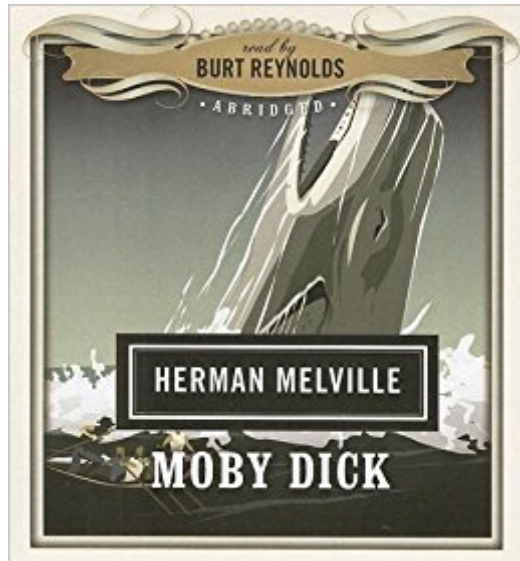




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Moby Dick (Classics Read By Celebrities Series)



Synopsis

This is an *ABRIDGED* reading of Moby Dick. It is read by Burt Reynolds and it is part of the 'Classics Read by Celebrities' audiobook series. Moby Dick is the epic saga of the fanatical Captain Ahab, who has sworn vengeance on the mammoth white whale who has crippled him. The first American novel to win a place in the literature of the world, it is a masterfully symbolic drama of the conflict between man and his fate.

Book Information

Audio CD: 6 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 1,967 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,749,915 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #7 in Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > (M) > Melville, Herman #437 in Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction > Classics #1476 in Books > Literature & Fiction > United States > Classics

Customer Reviews

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.

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In a sense, this work is the piece de resistance of the textual revolution in American scholarship of the past generation. The first half is the final MLA "Approved Text" of the classic novel, prepared under the auspices of the Center for Editions of American Authors. The second half consists of an Historical Note detailing background, genetic composition, publication, and ensuing critical reception; a discussion of its textual history; and some relevant marginalia. The work is not only thorough and rigorous, but, considering the scholarly grittiness of the endeavor, surprisingly lucid and graceful in its exposition. Highly recommended for special collections. Earl Rovit, City Coll., CUNY Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Author Lance Stahlberg and illustrator Lalit Kumar Singh do a stupendous job at tackling one of the longest novels in American literature in graphic format. Stahlberg is faithful to Melville in plot and characterization. While I read it, I felt that I was part of the movie. Captain Ahab's vibrant and dynamic albeit twisted personality was not lost in this adaptation. And Lilat's artwork was simply gorgeous and outstanding. If students are reluctant to tackle the original version of Moby Dick (and I can't blame them for that), this is it. Stahlberg's language is dynamic and exciting so that it is impossible to stop reading it. You can still discuss the literary elements and themes with this graphic text. The book has a couple of informative pages about the sperm whale, the existence of the true Moby Dick, and whalers of the nineteenth century. The book certainly deserves its place in the classroom. I highly recommend it.

From previous experience I knew there used to be a bug that prevented the original Kindle from linking to footnotes in some content. Thanks to the unnamed programmer who finally fixed this .The content pages are all complete and the text is clear. And the footnote linking works. It appears that has cleaned up the formatting of Kindle content a lot in the past year. Now if they'd offer to re-download clean versions of our previous purchases, that would really boost customer loyalty. As to the content, I'd say that \$3 for a portable copy of this classic is a good bargain.

WARNING: THIS KINDLE VERSION OF BOOK IS MISSING PAGES. PUBLISHER HAS BEEN MADE AWARE OF THIS BUT HAS NOT UPDATED BOOK. THE MISSING PAGES OCCUR IN MIDDLE OF IMPORTANT CHAPTERS AND CAUSE THEM TO MAKE NO SENSE. (Feb 2013)(still

true Feb 2014: Kindle dept has dropped ball on contacting publisher so I will be calling Kindle again since book has not auto-updated or shown that corrected version is available, so pages still missing in several places throughout book) This version is better than the free version because it has not been edited down to plot-only. Magnificent story of one of the most fascinating complex characters ever invented - Ahab - & the crew unwittingly forced to accompany him on his crazed quest for revenge against the Great White Whale who maimed him. Complete with detailed footnotes to explain all the biblical, literary, historical & contemporary references Melville enriched his work with. Story told from multiple points of view, adding to its depth & richness. (Ignore the intro as it's like CliffNotes: adds nothing to the novel & insists on judging characters instead of letting intelligent readers decide for themselves). One of the best adventure stories ever written. JAWS was based on this but that novel suffers in comparison to this great classic.

Tackling the likes of Melville or Hawthorne to bring the language down to entry-level is no small task. The quality and the tone of this retelling is remarkably different from the original, but the plot is similar enough that a semblance of the theme emerges. While no literary masterpiece, a child that has read or been read this will at least be familiar with the story. To be clear, if you've read this, you've hardly read Moby-Dick. You'll miss a ton, and quite a bit more than less shortened Classic Starts I've read like Tom Sawyer, The Jungle Book, and The Call of the Wild. I suppose those other original authors were not as commanding in their use of English as Melville should be regarded. The story is nearly gutted of all the Christian and biblical references, allusion and innuendo. Because of this, character development is very shallow. Because Moby-Dick is a first-person narrative, it has the effect of the reader not really getting to know the protagonist narrator very well, and also of reducing his thoughts and observations of other characters to very cursory ones. In the end, it's still at least as good as the average chapter book written to be read to kindergarteners, and it retells a story that has some substance that an adult reader can enjoy (if they've read Moby Dick). I guess it's kind of like reading a children's version of a bible story -- not the full monty but worthy and if you know more, you might even find yourself inspired to augment it with a little more of the truth. My preschool aged kids enjoyed the story. They created artwork based on the story out of their own initiative, played "whale" in the community pool, and understood allusions and metaphor to principle themes in the story like the blindedness of Ahab's foolish, vengeful wrath. The only way to go wrong here is if this story somehow prevented someone from reading the original when they were later able.

This review of the Easton Press Collector's Edition in The 100 Greatest Books Ever Written. One of my very favorite books of all time and this Easton Press edition showed me just what a finely crafted leather-bound masterpiece could be. The ribbed leather cover is exquisite, the cloth backing on the inside of the front and back cover luxurious, and the archival quality paper is nothing short of extraordinary. The publisher chose illustrations by a talented artist to help bring the story alive, and a typeset was specifically selected that would be most appropriate for this work. The result is a fine piece of craftsmanship that draws my respect as I sit by the fire, experiencing the wonderful sensation of holding such a finely crafted work in my hands while I read this incredible piece of literature.

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