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APPENDICES

1. Synopsis of *Moby Dick*

The story of *Moby Dick* Begins with the main character, Ishmael, trying to sign on a whaling ship. On his way to find a ship, he meets with Queequeg, a harpooneer who is from an island south of America, who has just come back from a whaling voyage. They share a room in an inn and become friends not long after. Together, they sign on a whaling voyage on the ship Pequod, who is about to begin its three-year journey of whaling.

Aboard the Pequod, Ishmael meets with the ship's crew members. Starbuck, the first mate of the ship, Stubb, the second mate who is good humored and acts the morale booster of the ship, Flask, the bold and fierce third mate of the ship. Ishmael also meets with some of the harpooners namely Tashtego and Daggoo. But one person he hasn't met yet is the captain, who isolates himself from the rest of the crew members.

But not long after, the captain finally shows up on the deck and reveals his true intention on the voyage. His reason behind it is to hunt a white whale by the name of Moby Dick, who has given him humiliation by biting off his leg in the previous voyage. Everyone then vows to follow on his path, except for Starbuck.



While on a quest to find Moby Dick, the crew members of Pequod spend their time by doing their usual job, which is to find other sperm whales and extract the oil from them.

On their way they meet with other ships that tell them about the whereabouts of Moby Dick. Ahab, without the other crew members noticing, brings in another group of crew members lead by a harpooner named Fedallah, to help Captain Ahab on his battle against Moby Dick later on.

Only Starbuck alone is not on board with Captain Ahab's revenge against Moby Dick. He tries to convince Captain Ahab, but he doesn't budge. But not only that, there are signs of omens that tells Captain Ahab to turn back. But alas, he refuses to back down.

Time passes, and they find Moby Dick at last. For three days, they try to pursue Moby Dick with small boats, but each attempt only results in failure. But on the third day. They finally catch the attention of the white whale. Moby Dick turns to attack the ship Pequod, sinking the ship as a result.

But that is not a concern of Captain Ahab, as he uses this moment as the last chance to kill Moby Dick. He throws his harpoon towards the white whale. However, he misses the throw, only for the rope of the harpoon to wring his neck instead, resulting in his death.



But a fortune in misfortune, one crew member makes it out alive, and it's Ishmael. He uses a coffin as a life buoyant and waits until a ship comes to pick him up. He then goes to tell this story to other people.

2. Biography of Herman Melville

Herman Melville was born in New York, 18th of August in the year 1819, the third son from a well-off family of eight. His father, Allan Melville was a merchant and an importer of clothing goods, which was where Melville later got his skill in trading from. His mother, Maria Melville was an avid reader of literature, said to be an influence to Melville's career as a writer.

His father's success as a merchant allowed Melville and his family to live comfortably for a long period of time, but the sudden and unexpected death of his father in 1832 saw a major shift in the financial situation of the Melville family and set the course for Melville's later career as a sailor and a writer. Following his father's death, Melville had tried different things to recover from his financial situation, including working as a bank clerk between 1834 to 1837, before working as a school teacher for the following year.

On the first June of 1839, at the age of 19, Melville signed up and began his career in sea voyage as a 'green hand' (an inexperienced crew member) aboard the ship St. Lawrence, a merchant ship that sailed from New York to Liverpool following



the advice of his brother (Parker, 2002: 143). Melville, however, has yet to commit to the life of the sea after the four-month voyage, and upon his return, he still relied on the generosity of his relatives. After a long job hunting, he went back to teaching in a school for a short period of time but without getting paid (Maxwell, 1998).

In 1940, Melville travelled to New Bedford to sign for a four-year trip as a crew member of the ship *Acushnet*, which was set to sail the year after. Aboard the ship are 26 or so crew members, including Melville himself.

His voyage aboard the *Acushnet* only lasted for around a year, however, as Melville and one of his shipmates, John B. Troy deserted the ship in July 1842. He landed on the Huku Niva island, the land of the cannibals and was taken as a half guest half captive by the islanders. This experience would later be written down on his first novel *Typee: A Peep at Polynesian Life*.

He left the island in August, aboard the ship *Lucy Ann*, heading towards Tahiti. Along the way, he joined a rebel group and was captured and jailed upon arriving in Tahiti, which he and his shipmate escaped from. He resided in the neighbouring island for about a month, working as a gatherer. This event then became the basis for his second novel *Omoo: A Narrative of Adventures in the South Seas*.

He signed up for another voyage, just a month after his return from Tahiti, as a sailor on the ship *Charles & Henry* in Nantucket. The voyage lasted for 6 months



before his dismissal in 1943. Not long after that he enlisted as a sailor once again for the USS United States between August 1943 to October 1944 (Levine, 2004: 16).

Upon his return from the sea voyage, he immediately went to write the aforementioned *Typee: A Peep at Polynesian Life*. The novel gained much praises from all over the England, then New York when it began to be published there. This success sparked the creation of *Omoo: A Narrative of Adventures in the South Seas*. Just a year later, receiving the same amount of praise. He went to write three more novels after: *Mardi: and a Voyage Thither*, *Redburn: His First Voyage*, *White-Jacket*; or, *The World in a Man-of-War*, however not as successful as the first two.

His fifth novel was published as *The Whale* in England, and *Moby Dick*; or *The Whale* in the US, both were published in October and November 1851 respectively. Melville accumulated all the knowledge and experience he obtained from his previous sea voyages for the creation of this novel. *Moby Dick*, or rather Herman Melville also didn't shy away from taking inspirations from the real-life incident of the sinking of USS *Essex* in 1820, a whaling ship that was attacked and sunk by a sperm whale following its departing from Nantucket, sailing towards South America.

Betraying our expectation, however, was the fact that Melville didn't live to see the success of his magnum opus. As a matter of fact, it received lukewarm receptions at the time of its release. He passed away from heart attack in September



18th 1891, after publishing several more literary works, consisting of novels, poetries, and short stories.