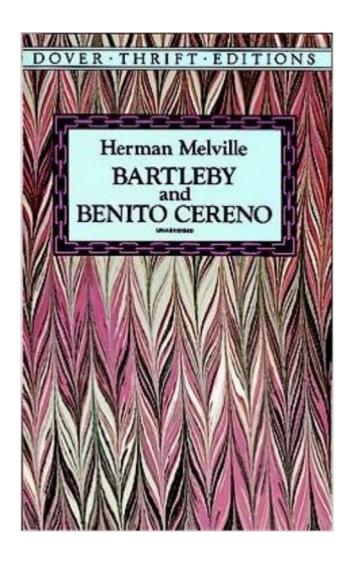
The book was found

Bartleby And Benito Cereno





Synopsis

Herman Melville towers among American writers not only for his powerful novels, but also for the stirring novellas and short stories that flowed from his pen. Two of the most admired of these — "Bartleby" and "Benito Cereno" — first appeared as magazine pieces and were then published in 1856 as part of a collection of short stories entitled The Piazza Tales."Bartleby" (also known as "Bartleby the Scrivener") is an intriguing moral allegory set in the business world of mid-19th-century New York. A strange, enigmatic man employed as a clerk in a legal office, Bartleby forces his employer to come to grips with the most basic questions of human responsibility, and haunts the latter's conscience, even after Bartleby's dismissal."Benito Cereno," considered one of Melville's best short stories, deals with a bloody slave revolt on a Spanish vessel. A splendid parable of man's struggle against the forces of evil, the carefully developed and mysteriously guarded plot builds to a dramatic climax while revealing the horror and depravity of which man is capable. Reprinted here from standard texts in a finely made, yet inexpensive new edition, these stories offer the general reader and students of Melville and American literature sterling examples of a literary giant at his story-telling best.

Book Information

Paperback: 112 pages

Publisher: Dover Publications; Unabridged edition (July 1, 1990)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0486264734

ISBN-13: 978-0486264738

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.3 x 8.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars Â See all reviews (41 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #41,483 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #84 in Books > Literature & Fiction

> United States > Classics #715 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Short Stories & Anthologies >

Short Stories #1449 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Classics

Customer Reviews

Herman Melville spins a great tale that's easy to read. It's a story about five men, and the main character is just as much the narrator as it is Bartleby. The narrator is an attorney who hires three people to work for him, and each one is a real character. All the men are described in great detail, and they are terrific thumbnail character sketches that will stay in your memory bank for years to

come! The last man employed is Bartleby, and he is really a strange duck! Bartleby is an excellent copier of legal documents, and initially he does a fine job. However, as the story progresses Barleby acts very strange. He responds with the words, "I'd prefer not to," when asked to proof-read manuscripts, and this response continues whenever the narrator, his boss, asks him perform the ususal office tasks such as going the the post office or doing small errands. The climax of the story comes when the narrator finds Bartleby in the law office getting dressed one Sunday morning. It appears that Bartleby is using the office for his lodging, and the narrator later comes across his personal belongings and shaving kit. As the story progresses, Bartleby does less and less work, and soon he's nothing more than a fixture in the law offices. When the narrator dismisses him and pays him a salary plus a tip, Bartlby refuses to leave. Finally, the narrator is about ready to go crazy -- the man won't leave. So, the narrator moves his law practice to another location and leaves Bartleby at the former work site. The end of the story describes Bartleby in the Tomb, and asylum. Rumor has it that Bartleby was once employed as a clerk in a Dead Letter Office, and this seems to explain his forlon state.

These two tales are very different, but both of them are deep and acute penetrations into the human psyche. The first one, "Benito Cereno" is about a mutiny on board of a ship. This ship is navigating astray, off the coast of Chile (which is NOT in Central America, as other reviewers have embarrasingly said), when Captain Delano, an American sailor, observes it. He gets near the suspicious ship, gets on board of it, and finds an extremely tense and enigmatic situation. Wonderfully, Melville chose to describe the situation only through the senses of Captain Delano. As the narrator is not omniscient, we only know what Delano knows, so we understand his confusion and amazement at the strange facts he observes. We share his vacilations, speculations and changes of opinion before the disconcerting behavior of Captain Benito Cereno. This makes the reader stay interested all through the story, like he was there being part of it. The unexpected ending will solve the mystery, but only partially. What's best about this story, even more than the smart plot, is the author's technique. He puts the reader right in the middle of the action. Just like in life, where we have no narrator telling us what the rest of the characters are doing "meanwhile". We only know what we learn from our senses, hopefully processed through reason. The second tale, "Bartleby the scrivener" follows a technique similar to that of "Benito Cereno", but within a very different context and plot. It's narrated in first person by a good-hearted and charitable Wall Street lawyer (I guess times have changed) who hires a young and silent man as a copyist (that is, before Xerox, the guy who made manual copies of legal documents).

Download to continue reading...

Bartleby and Benito Cereno Un indio zapoteco llamado Benito Juarez (Punto de Lectura) (Spanish Edition) ANIMAL ATTACK ! Vol 1: LIONS AND TIGERS AND BEARS... AND SHARKS... AND ALLIGATORS... AND HIPPOS... AND RHINOS... AND ELEPHANTS... AND SCORPIONS... AND SNAKES, LOTS OF SNAKES Coins, medals, and seals, ancient and modern: Illustrated and described: with a sketch of the history of coins and coinage, instructions for young ... and American coins, medals and tokens, &c George Bernard Shaw: Collected Articles, Lectures, Essays and Letters: Thoughts and Studies from the Renowned Dramaturge and Author of Mrs. Warren's Profession, ... and Cleopatra, Androcles And The Lion Children and Youth in Sickness and in Health: A Historical Handbook and Guide (Children and Youth: History and Culture) Sleisenger and Fordtran's Gastrointestinal and Liver Disease Review and Assessment (Sleisenger and Fordtrans Gastrointestinal and Liver) Bulletproof Diet Cookbook For Beginners: Quick and Easy Recipes and Smoothies to Lose Fat and Increase Energy (Lose Up To A Pound A Day, Reclaim Energy and Focus, End Food Cravings) Master gemcutting tips: A comprehensice collection of proven lapidary and gemcutting tips and methods that are of immediate and practical use to ... and carvers regardless of their experience Chloe's Vegan Desserts: More than 100 Exciting New Recipes for Cookies and Pies, Tarts and Cobblers, Cupcakes and Cakes--and More! The Winter Garden: Over 35 step-by-step projects for small spaces using foliage and flowers, berries and blooms, and herbs and produce Eat Fat and Get Thin, Fit, and Healthier Than Ever Before!: Easy Diet and Delicious Cookbook: Recipes for Dramatic and Sustainable Weight Loss (Includes 21 Day Meal Plan) Best Plants for New Mexico Gardens and Landscapes: Keyed to Cities and Regions in New Mexico and Adjacent Areas, Revised and Expanded Edition Gardening; a Complete Guide to Garden Making, Including Flowers and Lawns, Trees and Shrubs, Fruits and Vegetables, Plants in the Home and Greenhouse. DDT and the American Century: Global Health, Environmental Politics, and the Pesticide That Changed the World (The Luther H. Hodges Jr. and Luther H. ... Entrepreneurship, and Public Policy) DDT and the American Century: Global Health, Environmental Politics, and the Pesticide That Changed the World (The Luther H. Hodges Jr. and Luther H. Hodges ... Entrepreneurship, and Public Policy) Nematode Pathogenesis of Insects and Other Pests: Ecology and Applied Technologies for Sustainable Plant and Crop Protection (Sustainability in Plant and Crop Protection) All Creatures Great and Small, All Things Bright and Beautiful, and All Things Wise and Wonderful: Three James Herriot Classics The Paleo Cure: Eat Right for Your Genes, Body Type, and Personal Health Needs -- Prevent and Reverse Disease, Lose Weight Effortlessly, and Look and Feel Better than Ever The Coconut Oil and Low-Carb Solution for Alzheimer's,

Parkinson's, and Other Diseases: A Guide to Using Diet and a High-Energy Food to Protect and Nourish the Brain

<u>Dmca</u>