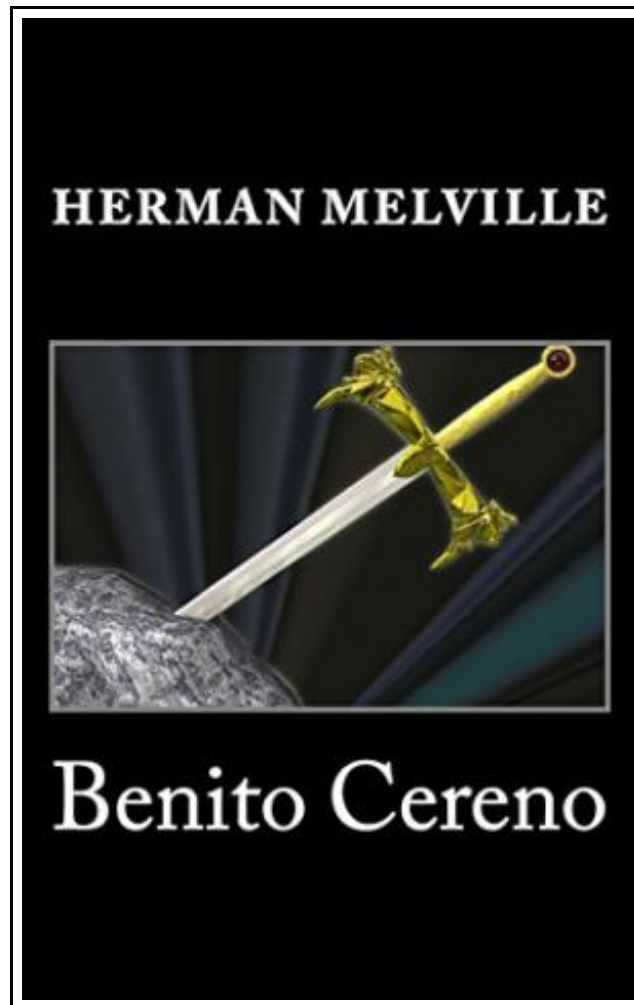


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CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform. Paperback. Book Condition: New. This item is printed on demand. Paperback. 98 pages. Dimensions: 8.0in. x 5.0in. x 0.2in. Benito Cereno contains some of Herman Melvilles most vivid action writing, though the action is all suspense and premonition until the climax. Why this story hasnt been more widely acclaimed remains a mystery, as it captures the imagination of a young reader in a tighter grip than Billy Budd. Joseph Conrads famous story of the Congo was written decades after Melvilles story of a mutiny, and its extremely unlikely that Conrad was thinking of Benito Cereno when he wrote Heart of Darkness, but the two extended stories have a lot in common: scenes of human depravity, ambiguities about good and evil, nightmarish descriptions, an atmosphere of suspended horror. More historically-informed readers will surely guess the mystery of Captain Cerenos behavior on his ghastly ship long before the good-natured American Captain Delano. Readers of Melvilles era, recalling the news of the ship Amistad, would have guessed even quicker and more certainly. In fact, the tension between the readers aroused suspicions and the benevolent opacity of Captain Delano is at the core of the reading experience. The Good seldom have much insight into the Wicked. But wait, dont rush to judgment about wickedness when you read Herman Melville! Is mutiny a greater wickedness than slavery, and is violence in the act of self-liberation less or more justified than violence in defense of property And is Captain Delanos good-natured racism, based on his assumption that blacks are docile and unintelligent, not the basis for his nearly disastrous lack of acumen Babo, the ringleader of the mutiny, may be a horrid beast in Delanos mind but hes surely the smartest Homo sapiens on the scene, a representation that cant have been unintended...

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