

**GREAT ILLUSTRATED CLASSICS**

# **MOBY DICK**

**Herman Melville**

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**BARONET  
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The Sea Restores Ishmael's Spirits.

## CHAPTER 1

### A Strange Roommate

Call me Ishmael. I am a schoolmaster, and whenever life got me down, I would leave my job and head for one special place. When my spirits needed restoring, I could always count on the sea.

I don't mean I'd travel as a passenger. No, for me the way to escape the closeness of my home town of Manhatto, New York, was to go to sea as a plain seaman. I liked the exercise, I liked getting paid instead of having to pay, plus I liked satisfying my yen for seeing faraway places.

## MOBY DICK

This time, though, I decided that instead of signing up on a merchant vessel, I'd go on a whaling ship that would sail from that original home of whaling, Nantucket, an island off the coast of Massachusetts. I had to go to New Bedford first, then take a small boat to Nantucket.

I arrived in New Bedford on a bitter cold Saturday night in December, only to get some bad news. The last boat for Nantucket had just left, and there wouldn't be another until Monday morning. I hadn't counted on the extra expense of staying in New Bedford two nights, but I had no choice. So I began to look around for a low-cost inn.

Since the ones I passed seemed too cheerful and attractive for my pocket, I kept on walking in the icy wind. Finally, near the dock, I came to a run-down gabled house. Its sign creaked as it swung over the ramshackle door. Under a picture of a jet spray were the words



Looking For a Low-Cost Inn