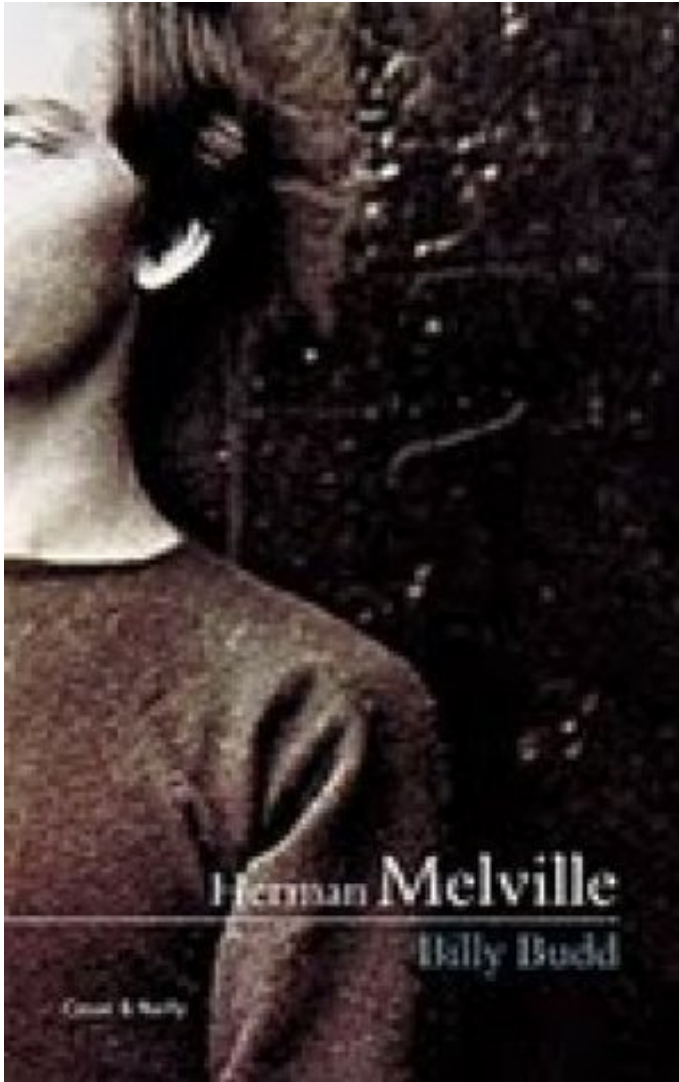

Herman Melville

Billy Budd



Title: Billy Budd

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Description

Publicado em 1924, este livro iniciou uma autêntica redescoberta do autor de Moby Dick, o norte-americano Herman Melville (1819-1891), que morrera no ostracismo. Ao longo da narrativa, o personagem Billy incorpora a figura do "Belo Marujo", jovem que à rara beleza pessoal e força física combina a "inconvenção retidão dos seres humanos íntegros, esses indivíduos aos quais ainda não foi ofertada a suspeita maçã do conhecimento". O marinheiro é recrutado por uma belonave inglesa que parte em direção ao Mediterrâneo no verão de 1797, poucos meses após a irrupção de duas graves revoltas no interior da armada. A edição é enriquecida com o ensaio O baleeiro literato, do escritor italiano Cesare Pavese.

Insightful reviews

Jay: Had completely forgotten until I began reading Moby-Dick that I had read this in 10th grade high school English. I had previously seen the film with Terence Stamp (as Billy), Peter Ustinov as Captain Vere ("Vere"/Truth, I got it) and Robert Ryan's bravura performance as the cruel and persecuting Mr. Claggart. So of course my recollection of the film colored my mental images of the characters in the book. In hindsight, the novel (more like a novella), while powerfully dramatic, resembles a Euripidean-style Greek tragedy, a clash of universal archetypes, all very two-dimensional in the portrayal of "good", "evil" and "morally-paralyzed indifference" -- a lot like certain of Steinbeck's "social" novels (e.g., "In Dubious Battle"). It's hard to "warm up" to any of the characters in the novel, even the supposedly "Christ-like" Billy.

Nevertheless, now that I'm nearly half-way through the magnum opus Moby-Dick and having just completed the section where Ishmael related the story of the thwarted mutiny on the *Town Ho*, I want to re-read *Billy Budd* if only for the academic exercise of comparing and contrasting Bill with the character of Steelkilt in M-D. Yeah, I know -- I need to get a life.

Sandra: Una trama semplice e lineare: siamo nel 1797, a bordo di una nave militare britannica. Un giovane marinaio, Billy Budd, viene forzatamente arruolato al servizio di sua maestà britannica in un periodo di turbolenze e ammutinamenti conseguenti agli effetti della rivoluzione francese. Il giovane, benvoluto da tutto l'equipaggio per la sua indole allegra e pacifica, viene accusato dal maestro d'armi Claggart di ammutinamento. Il capitano Vere predispone immediatamente un tribunale militare che lo giudichi e Billy affronta il verdetto con forza d'animo e coraggio.

Da un fatto così semplice scaturiscono molteplici interpretazioni simboliche, grazie alla raffinata narrazione che racconta accuratamente i tre personaggi, con particolare attenzione ai dettagli, come la descrizione fisica del malvagio Claggart e dei suoi occhi che cambiano colore ed espressione a seconda delle situazioni, giungendo ad una perfetta caratterizzazione dei medesimi. All'inizio mi aspettavo un romanzo di avventure marinare, e sono rimasta spiazzata perché non lo è, poi, arrivata al cuore del racconto, sono stata catturata dalla bravura di Melville e dalla bellezza della scrittura, ed ho cominciato a pensare al misterioso significato da dargli. Me ne sono venuti in mente diversi, alla fine ho tirato le conclusioni che non rivelerei, altrimenti toglierebbe il gusto della lettura per chi volesse farlo. E vi consiglio di leggerlo, è breve ed è una piacevolissima lettura, soprattutto vi farà meditare (e vi pare poco!).

Judy: I feel like I should ask forgiveness for allotting only two stars to a Melville, but I felt adrift while reading [Billy Budd, Foretopman](#). Perhaps, children, for whom this book was written, were more acclimated to reading books awash with philosophy about working relationships aboard a Royal Navy vessel, but I see few children in today's world tuning into this story. I had a hard time tuning in until more than halfway through...

Billy Budd aka The Handsome Sailor, orphan, and already a seasoned foretopman at the age of nineteen (I believe) finds himself conscripted to the Indomitable and away from his happy employment on a merchant vessel. As with his previous vessel, he is the perfect soul and well-liked by the officers and crew alike. There is a cheesy sense of too-perfect young man here. Of course, something upsets the apple cart in the form of an officer, Claggart, who is jealous of Billy's perfectness. He sets him up for a fall and that is where the book finally takes off and becomes somewhat interesting. Melville does an excessive amount of analyzing the motives of Claggart, the perception of people in regards to Billy, etc. Melville also obsesses about Billy's perfect appearance and how it made people love him. I felt this put undue emphasis on something that few children can change drastically. I almost put the book down and screamed, but it was only 126 pages with lots of illustrations of perfect Billy, so I went ahead and finished it.

Laura: From BBC Radio three - Drama on 3: The playwright Keith Dewhurst adapts Herman Melville's strong tale of persecution and retribution within the aftermath of the Naval Mutinies at Nore and Spithead in 1797. He additionally tells the tale of the guy who wrote it. a part of Radio 3's Britten centenary weekend, this play presents an alternate context to Britten's opera, that's additionally being broadcast at the station. Herman Melville used to be a guy who himself had greater than a passing acquaintance with mutiny. there has been a historical past of it among his forebears and his personal escapades as a sailor within the South Pacific concerned him in a mutiny of his own. Starring Gerard Murphy, Robert Portal and Monica Dolan and with results in particular recorded off the Cornish coast, it is a tale steeped within the naval historical past of 2 nations. it's also a touching account of artistic aspiration, failed adventuring and a relatives haunted by way of misfortune.

James: impressive book. Melville is one of these subtle writer/observer of the human condition. not anything turns out to flee his eye. during this brief yet super robust tale, we see what occurs while resentment and associations come jointly as forces of destiny to wreck the naive embodiment of innocence--Billy Budd. you furthermore mght research whatever in regards to the psychology of residing on a boat and what it was once like in the course of the top of the mutiny scares again on the flip of the 18th century within the English navy. you would not imagine that somebody may pack this type of robust punch in the sort of brief space, yet Melville, simply as he does in Bartleby, comes via in a big, shattering way. With the vividness and the uncanny descriptiveness of his prose, he comes very as regards to the worlding energy he created in Moby Dick, that's among the finest paintings in American literature. in the event you have not learn Melville before, begin here, with this little gem. this is often how novels will be written. somebody convey me a latest paintings that has writing as robust as Melville's. i might be endlessly grateful!

David: My favorite bit is whilst the captain asks his hammock-boy to smuggle the good-looking sailor to his cabin. And the hammock-boy appears to be like on the digicam and pulls a face like Frankie Howerd. "Mr. Wilkes!' summoning the closest midshipman, 'tell Albertto come to me.' Albert was once the Captain's hammock-boy, a kind of sea-valet in whose discretion and constancy his grasp had much confidence. The lad appeared. 'You understand Budd the Foretopman?' 'I do, Sir.' 'Go locate him. it really is his watch off. have the capacity to inform him out of earshot that he's sought after aft. Contrive it that he speaks to nobody. maintain him in speak yourself. and never until eventually you recover aft here, now not until eventually then allow him recognize that where the place he's sought after is my cabin. You understand.'" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5fQyG...>

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