

Pym A Novel

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the sharpest and most unusual story i read last year mat johnson s satirical vision roves as freely as kurt vonnegut s and is colored with the same sort of passionate humanitarianism maud newton new york times magazine named one of the best books of the year by the washington post vanity fair houston chronicle the seattle times salon national post the a v club recently canned professor of american literature chris jaynes has just made a startling discovery the manuscript of a crude slave narrative that confirms the reality of edgar allan poe s strange and only novel the narrative of arthur gordon pym of nantucket determined to seek out tsalal the remote island of pure and utter blackness that poe describes jaynes convenes an all black crew of six to follow pym s trail to the south pole armed with little but the firsthand account from which poe

derived his seafaring tale a bag of bones and a stash of little debbie snack cakes thus begins an epic journey by an unlikely band of adventurers under the permafrost of antarctica beneath the surface of american history and behind one of literature s great mysteries outrageously entertaining pym brilliantly re imagines and extends edgar allan poe s enigmatic and unsettling narrative of arthur gordon pym of nantucket part social satire part meditation on race in america part metafiction and just as important a rollicking fantasy adventure reminiscent of philip roth in its seemingly effortless blend of the serious comic and fantastic michael dirda the washington post blisteringly funny laura miller salon relentlessly entertaining the new york times book review imagine kurt vonnegut having a beer with ralph ellison and jules verne vanity fair screamingly funny reading pym is like opening a big can of whoop ass and then marveling gleefully at all the mayhem that ensues houston chronicle

poe found the germ of the story he would develop into arthur gordon pym in 1836 in a newspaper account of the shipwreck and subsequent rescue of the two men on board published in 1838 this rousing sea adventure follows new england boy pym who stows away on a whaling ship with its captain s son augustus the two boys repeatedly find themselves on the brink of death or discovery and witness many terrifying events including mutiny cannibalism and frantic pursuits poe imbued this deliberately popular tale with such allegorical richness biblical imagery and psychological insights that the tale has come to influence writers as various as melville james verne and nabokov for more than seventy years penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the english speaking world with more than 1 700 titles penguin classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors as well as up to date translations by award winning translators

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the narrative of arthur gordon pym of nantucket 1838 is the only complete novel written by american writer edgar allan poe the work relates the tale of the young arthur gordon pym who stows away aboard a whaling ship called the grampus various adventures and misadventures befall pym including shipwreck mutiny and cannibalism before he is saved by the crew of the jane guy aboard this vessel pym and a sailor named dirk peters continue their adventures farther south docking on land they encounter hostile black skinned natives before escaping back to the ocean the novel ends abruptly as pym and peters continue toward the south pole

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chapter 1 my name is arthur gordon pym my father was a respectable trader in sea stores at nantucket where i was born my maternal grandfather was an attorney in good practice he was fortunate in every thing and had speculated very successfully in stocks of the edgerton new bank as it was formerly called by these and other means he had managed to lay by a tolerable sum of money he was more attached to myself i believe than to any other person in the world and i expected to inherit the most of his property at his death he sent me at six years of age to the school of old mr ricketts a gentleman with only one arm and of eccentric manners he is well known to almost every person who has visited new bedford i stayed at his school until i was sixteen when i left him for mr e ronald s academy on the hill here i became intimate with the son of mr barnard a sea captain who generally sailed in the employ of lloyd and vredenburgh mr barnard is also very well known in new bedford and has many relations i am certain in edgerton

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edgar allan poe s only novel the narrative of arthur gordon pym of nantucket is a pivotal work in which poe calls attention to the act of writing and to the problem of representing the truth it is an archetypal american story of escape from domesticity tracing a young man s rite of passage through a series of terrible brushes with death during a fateful sea voyage included are eight related tales which further illuminate pym by their treatment of persistent themes fantastic voyages gigantic whirlpools and premature burials as well as its relationship to poe s art and life

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embark on a thrilling and enigmatic voyage with edgar allan poe s only complete novel arthur gordon pym this haunting tale follows young arthur gordon pym as he stows away aboard the whaling ship grampus only to be swept into a series of increasingly bizarre and terrifying events mutiny starvation and shipwreck are only the beginning of pym s harrowing journey into the unknown as pym and his companions venture further south they encounter strange islands inexplicable phenomena and savage natives culminating

in a descent into the chilling and surreal arthur gordon pym is a masterful blend of adventure mystery and horror that showcases poe s unparalleled ability to evoke suspense and dread a classic of american literature this novel continues to captivate readers with its unsettling atmosphere and thought provoking themes discover the dark secrets that lie hidden in the icy depths of the antarctic in this unforgettable romance this work has been selected by scholars as being culturally important and is part of the knowledge base of civilization as we know it this work was reproduced from the original artifact and remains as true to the original work as possible therefore you will see the original copyright references library stamps as most of these works have been housed in our most important libraries around the world and other notations in the work this work is in the public domain in the united states of america and possibly other nations within the united states you may freely copy and distribute this work as no entity individual or corporate has a copyright on the body of the work as a reproduction of a historical artifact this work may contain missing or blurred pages poor pictures errant marks etc scholars believe and we concur that this work is important enough to be preserved reproduced and made generally available to the public we appreciate your support of the preservation process and thank you for being an important part of keeping this knowledge alive and relevant

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in this new edition what was already an expansive work has been updated and further enlarged to include information not only on american and british novelists but also on writers in english from around the world

this ebook edition of the narrative of arthur gordon pym has been formatted to the highest digital standards and adjusted for readability on all devices arthur gordon pym and augustus barnard from the island of nantucket are best friends determined to become sailors and ready for an adventure of their lifetime augustus smuggles pym and tiger pym s faithful dog on a whaling vessel commanded by augustus s father that is bound for the southern seas and their great adventure starts they will soon have to deal with mutiny shipwreck and many other various adventures and misadventures on the way to their final goal the south pole edgar allan poe 1809 1849 was an american writer editor and literary critic best known for his poetry and short stories of mystery and the macabre he is widely regarded as a central figure of romanticism in the united states and american literature as a whole and he was one of the country s earliest practitioners of the short story

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