



Sea-Brothers: The Tradition of American Sea Fiction from Moby-Dick to the Present

Bert Bender

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Sea-Brothers offers the most extensive analysis to date of the sea and its meaning in American literature. On the basis of his study of Melville, Crane, London, Hemingway, Matthiessen, and ten lesser-known sea-writers, Bert Bender argues that the tradition of American sea fiction did not end with the opening of the western frontier and the replacement of sailing ships by steamers. Rather, he demonstrates its continuity and vitality, identifying a central vision within the tradition and showing how particular authors draw from, transform, and contribute to it.

What is most distinctive about American sea fiction, Bender contends, is its visionary, often mystical, response to the biological world and to man's perceived place in the larger universe. When Melville envisioned the sea as the essential element of life, indeed as life itself, he changed the course of American sea fiction by introducing the relevance of biological thought. But his meditations on the whale and "the ungraspable phantom of life" project a different reality from that envisioned by his successors. In American sea fiction after Melville, the influence of *Origin of Species* is as powerful as that of *Moby Dick* or the theme of sailing ships being displaced by steam.

The ideal of brotherhood so central to American sea fiction was severely compromised by the biological reality of a competitive, warring nature. Twentieth-century sea fiction has continued to center on the biological world and address the possibility of democratic brotherhood, but the issues were fundamentally changed by Darwin's theories.

This book will be a valuable source for students and scholars of American literature and will interest readers of sea fiction.

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Sea-Brothers: The Tradition of American Sea Fiction from Moby-Dick to the Present can be one of your beginner books that are good idea. We recommend that straight away because this guide has good vocabulary that could increase your knowledge in terminology, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nevertheless delivering the information. The article writer giving his/her effort to set every word into pleasure arrangement in writing Sea-Brothers: The Tradition of American Sea Fiction from Moby-Dick to the Present yet doesn't forget the main point, giving the reader the hottest and based confirm resource info that maybe you can be certainly one of it. This great information can easily drawn you into completely new stage of crucial imagining.

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