



## Moby-Dick in Pictures: One Drawing for Every Page

*Matt Kish*

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Inspired by one of the world's greatest novels, Ohio artist Matt Kish set out on an epic voyage of his own one day in August 2009. More than one hundred and fifty years following the original publication of Moby-Dick, Kish began illustrating Herman Melville's classic, creating images based on text selected from every page of the 552-page Signet Classics paperback edition. Completely self-taught, Kish refused to set any boundaries for the artwork and employed a deliberately low-tech approach in response to the increasing popularity of born-digital art and literature. He used found pages torn from old, discarded books, as well as a variety of mediums, including ballpoint pen, marker, paint, crayon, ink, and watercolor. By layering images on top of existing words and images, Kish has crafted a visual masterpiece that echoes the layers of meaning in Melville's narrative. In retrospect, Kish says he feels as foolhardy as Ishmael, the novel's narrator, and as obsessed as Captain Ahab in his quest for the great white whale. "I see now that the project was an attempt to fully understand this magnificent novel, to walk through every sun-drenched word, to lift up all the hatches and open all the barrels, to smell, taste, hear, and see every seabird, every shark, every sailor, every harpooner, and every whale," he says. "It was a hard thing, a very painful thing, but the novel now lives inside me in a way it never could have before." Kish spent nearly every day for eighteen months toiling away in a small closet he converted into an art studio. In order to share the work with family and friends, he started the blog "One Drawing for Every page of Moby-Dick," where he posted art and brief description about his process on a daily basis.

## **Moby-Dick in Pictures: One Drawing for Every Page Details**

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Author : Matt Kish

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## From Reader Review Moby-Dick in Pictures: One Drawing for Every Page for online ebook

### Nancy says

Whoa! I clicked on this goodreads-giveaway book in the spirit of I-wonder-what-that-would-be-like. I won a copy! Now, I'm not sure what to make of it. I'm not sure if it is right to say I "read" Moby-Dick in Pictures since I still can't decide how many stars it is worth. It is not like any book I seen. It only has bits of the text of Moby-Dick so is not really a graphic-novel. The style(s) of the art work is not at all what I would have guessed. What would Melville have thought of this? You could spend a very long time with each page, figuring out the layers and the connection to the page it represents. Is it a masterpiece worth the time or not? I can't tell yet.

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### Paul Bryant says

Now I have a reason to enter the Euromillions lottery and win a cool 100 million smackers. Because I now want to commission a book just like this wild, obsessive compulsive disorder of a book only for James Joyce's Ulysses. What I will do (when I win) is hire 782 artists, one for every page of Ulysses, and their contract will stipulate that they all sit down on Bloomsday (16th June) and made a lovely picture inspired by a specific given page of JJ's insane novel. So, copying Matt Kish's idea, but doing it slightly differently. It woould be magnificent. It would win prizes. I would establish a prize myself, and award it to it.

As for Moby Dick in Pictures, well, Moby is one of my four favourite dicks, the others being Phillip K, Nixon, and Philip Marlowe, who was a private one, and if ever a book deserved some lunatic to sit down EVERY DAY for a year and a half and NO TIME OFF and do a picture based on a random quote for each and every page, then it's bold Moby.

*Ahab said to Starbuck*

*When that whale is caught and canned*

*Would you make me a double-tall-decaf-skinny*

*In your little old latte stand*

*Moby Dick was a great white whale*

*And a low down dirty rat*

*You ate up all my shipmates*

*And my John B. Stetson hat*

(non-traditional folk song)

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### tim says

It must have taken some Ahab-grade obsession to see this ambitious project all the way through to

completion. Fortunately, like Ishmael, Matt Kish narrowly escapes annihilation to bring back his labor of love intact. Every drawing accompanies a quote pulled from each page of Moby Dick, visually re-imagining it. At 552 drawings completed roughly one a day without a break, one might expect to encounter waning inspiration if not sheer exhaustion at some point. Amazingly, a high-level of creativity is sustained throughout. The majority of drawings are put down over an assortment of found paper, adding and revealing layers of depth. However, the most striking pieces to me are the black and white line drawings done on top of watercolor paper or Bristol board. Though, there's not a stinker in the bunch as Matt Kish's passion shines through on every page. Not only is this a wonderful tribute to Herman Melville's masterpiece, it is a worthy supplement to the original that any fan will not want to miss.

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### **Mari?ina says**

I have yet to decide if this book is a masterpiece or a complete nonsense..  
Its grandiose style and the very well formed relationship between the book itself and the drawings are two contradictory elements that make it unique yet at points very disturbing..

Right from the start you know this book is not what it comes to mind when someone hears Moby-Dick!  
That is both good and bad..  
Yes it's from a totally new perspective but the disadvantage is caused by the actual fact that maybe it's too much!

The greatest characteristic this book carries for me it's how the artist moved by a certain quote from every page acts impulsively and recreates his imagination inside the book! That was downright amazing..

Edgy, raw, magnetizing, it will catch your eye from the beginning to the end.. You will turn the pages anxiously for what you'll find next..  
Shocking in an alternative way and appealing to people with different aesthetics.. Very pleasing yet pompous..  
An incredible coffee table book!

### **THOUGHTS ABOUT THE BOOK**

- Very well thought..
- Preferable on paperback because the kindle doesn't do justice to the art..
- The colors and techniques are variable and all nicely done and prominent..
- One of a kind book..

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## **Chris Blocker says**

What a wonderful tribute to a great novel.

When I received *Moby-Dick in Pictures* I decided it was imperative I view the book simultaneously with *Moby-Dick*. With a full reading list and an uncertainty about Melville's classic work, it took a little too long to get around to it. Thumbing through these artistic interpretations, I appreciated the work, but viewing these as I believe the artist intended them to be viewed, alongside *Moby Dick*, made them immensely richer.

There is so much that makes *Moby-Dick in Pictures* amazing: the sheer scope, the variety of styles and media, the progression of the artist. Kish worked on this project for over a year, making one picture on average for every day. Looking at these pictures, you get a sense of the day the artist was having, his relationship with the words on the page, his interpretation of Melville. You see the growth of the art from a hobby to a passion. And knowing that Kish is not a trained artist makes his art all the more meaningful; here is an artist putting a face to his love of literature with no idea what he'll find; what I believe Kish may have found in the end was a reflection of himself in the waters of Herman Melville.

Reading the introduction is a requirement to better understanding and appreciating this book. Even without this understanding, I believe the work is strong. I am eager to see what other works of art Kish produces in the future.

\*Received from Goodreads' First Reads program\*

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## **Stacie says**

This was a gift from my friend Anne. It is BEAUTIFUL! I got a little teary when I opened it.

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## **Ray says**

*Moby-Dick In Pictures* by Matt Kish is one of the best books I read this year, and one that I refer to often for inspiration. 552 remarkable, beautiful, ingenious illustrations, one for every page of the classic novel, *Moby Dick*. It's a great bargain too. \$28 ... that's, like, two cents a pound. (It's a BIG book.)

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## **Deirdre says**

This is an outstanding book and that is an understatement! It is a must have for any English or Art Teacher! Process and commitment is an endeavor and this book brings joy, energy and excitement to the undertaking. I love the concept and the work. BRAVO!

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## **Alfonso says**

This book was INCREDIBLE!!!! I wasn't sure what to expect when I entered the giveaway....but was pleasantly surprised when I received my copy in the mail. I had a graphic novel in mind. I am not really an artsy kind of person but this might have changed my outlook a bit. I read Moby Dick when I was very young and did not remember as well as I would have liked, so I went to the library and picked it up. Matt Kish does an excellent job portraying the story through his art. I was very impressed with this book and spent quite a bit of time with it. 5 stars well earned. I won it through goodreads firstreads.

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### **Feliks says**

Made an impulse buy, based on what excerpts I encountered on-line. It's a superb picture-book for my coffee-table (if I had a coffee-table). Also purchased one for a friend in the hospital. Anyway, great for flipping through--the thing is THICK! And handsomely printed, large-dimension. Supple 'matte'-finished pages for the fingertips. Graphic-art delight. And anyway, since this *tome* has no actual reading to be done (just quotations on each page) and since one simply browses it at random, I am simply going to mark it as 'read' and increase my book-tally for the year. Yes, I can do that.

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### **Esteban del Mal says**

How great is Goodreads?

This great.

I found out about this here book somehow or other because my antennae are always up when it comes to anything about Moby-Dick. I add it to my 'to-read' list. Resident nice guy, tim, notices this and, as you'll see in the comments below, let's me know that Powell's has ORIGINAL PRINTS from the artist on for sale in their gallery.

I call Powell's. Am treated as a curiosity because I don't live in Portland and can't get down there to claim one. I am abandoned to voicemail oblivion.

But behold! I am become Ahab.

I get ahold of my little Portland buddy, ~~Fedallah~~ Eh?/! She huffs it down to the gallery and gets somebody there to text me images of available prints. I pick one. Eh?/! buys it -- BUYS IT -- for me and doesn't want the money until after I actually have it in my hot little fingers.

Which won't be until next month because all of the artwork is still on display. I will soon have something in my house that was displayed in a gallery. And is based on Moby-Dick.

Goodreads win.

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### **Molly says**

Very handsome book.

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## **Michael says**

This is more of what I would call a Coffee Table Book of artwork. Each page of Moby Dick is represented in art. The artist is completely self taught and used a variety of mediums for the art including some unconventional sounding things:

According to the blurb on Amazon he "used found pages torn from old, discarded books, as well as a variety of mediums, including ballpoint pen, marker, paint, crayon, ink, and watercolor. By layering images on top of existing words and images, Kish has crafted a visual masterpiece that echoes the layers of meaning in Melville's narrative."

He avoided the more technical types of art such as digital and computerized graphics.

I purchased this because Moby Dick is my favorite novel and I was very curious to reconnect with the novel without taking a month to reread it in its entirety (I've read it three times and will do so again though and expect to find more that I missed the first three times).

Perusing this book (rather slowly as it has art for every page of the 552 page Signet edition of Moby Dick) was a way to reconnect with the story of Moby Dick in a more compressed way as it has a quote from the same page with each work of art.

As you can imagine it is fairly thick and heavy oversized trade paperback. Not something to carry to Starbucks to read while enjoying a Grande Latte. As mentioned it's more the type of book I would have on my desk or coffee table to flip through and read a few pages at a time.

I honestly did not like all of the art as I would have preferred some more conventional paintings to be represented as well but overall it was a pleasing book and a nice addition to my library. I would love to see the original art on a wall of a gallery.

Matt Kish, the author, also has given the same treatment to Joseph Conrad's "Heart of Darkness" another favorite of mine.

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## **Edward Rathke says**

This is going to be an unpopular opinion, but I didn't really care for this book.

I love most of Kish's artwork that I've come across. I love Moby Dick. This seemed like it was made for people like me, yeah?

While I like what he's doing in here and I like the idea behind the whole thing, his vision of Moby Dick is so vastly different than mine that I actually began to feel repelled by it. I don't know how to explain it better than that, but it kind of hurt me to look at these images at times, and not in a good way.

So, yeah--I recommend checking it out, because it is a cool book, but it just ended up not being for me.

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## **S. says**

I learned of this book shortly before I began Moby Dick and was intrigued, but figured such a huge book would cost me a heap of postage. Thank you amazon.de for making this purchase possible and less painful

than expected.

This is a beautiful companion to Moby Dick, full of inspired drawings and graphic work, one based on every page of the book. It's the kind of thing only someone who really loved the book could do, and that's what makes it all the more beautiful, the ekphrastic homage! It was touching in that way, where you see how Moby Dick really lives within this artist.

When I was younger and had not yet begun writing poetry, I used to copy out poems I loved by hand as a way of internalizing them and, honestly, showing my *devotion* to them in the only way that seemed possible. How I felt doing that is similar to the vibe I got going through this book - the artist making Moby Dick part of himself, wanting in a way to *interact* with it.

Very impressed. I totally recommend this to anyone who likes Moby Dick, or any art lover afraid to embark on the reading alone.

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