



The Beast of Cretacea

By Todd Strasser

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The Beast of Cretacea By Todd Strasser

Master storyteller Todd Strasser reimagines the classic tale of *Moby Dick* as set in the future—and takes readers on an epic sci-fi adventure.

When seventeen-year-old Ishmael wakes up from stasis aboard the *Pequod*, he is amazed by how different this planet is from the dirty, dying, Shroud-covered Earth he left behind. But Ishmael isn't on Cretacea to marvel at the fresh air, sunshine, and endless blue ocean. He's here to work, risking his life to hunt down great ocean-dwelling beasts to harvest and send back to the resource-depleted Earth. Even though easy prey abounds, time and again the chase boat crews are ordered to ignore it in order to pursue the elusive Great Terrafin. It's rumored that the ship's captain, Ahab, lost his leg to the beast years ago, and that he's now consumed by revenge. But there may be more to Captain Ahab's obsession. Dark secrets and dangerous exploits swirl around the pursuit of the beast, and Ishmael must do his best to survive—if he can.

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The Beast of Cretacea By Todd Strasser Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 6 Up—Earth is dying, and its people are starving. There are no more crops because there is no more rain. Oceans are a myth of the past. Humanity's only hope for survival is resource mining and colonization of distant planets—planets like Cretacea. Hoping to earn enough wages to pay for his foster family to leave Earth, young Ishmael enlists as a galley worker aboard a Cretacean fishing vessel called the Pequod. The crew of the Pequod works tirelessly to harpoon as many "humps" and terrafins as possible, hoping to bolster their wages at the end of the voyage. To the ship's captain, there is only one creature that matters: the elusive (and some say mythical) beast known as the Great Terrafin. The Captain vows to make a rich man out of any crewmember aboard who can spear it. What follows for Ishmael is a riveting tale that harkens back to the high-seas adventures of old, full of pirate encounters and other harrowing nautical perils. Strasser's pacing is flawless, and his characters well drawn. While Ishmael's true past is unveiled slowly, readers will find themselves drawn to his obvious bravery and loyalty from the very first page. Additionally, Strasser weaves futuristic technology into an old-fashioned maritime expedition seamlessly, resulting in a setting that feels timeless. Readers need not be familiar with Melville's *Moby-Dick* to enjoy Strasser's take on it, although those who are should be pleased with the faithful homages. **VERDICT** A must-read maritime adventure story for a new generation.—Liz Overberg, Zionsville Community High School, IN

Review

Gr 6 Up- *A riveting tale that harkens back to the high-seas adventures of old, full of pirate encounters and other harrowing nautical perils...* Strasser weaves futuristic technology into an old-fashioned maritime expedition, resulting in a setting that feels timeless. ... **VERDICT** *A must-read maritime adventure story for a new generation.*-- Liz Overberg, **SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL**

Equal parts *Moby-Dick* retelling, environmental cautionary tale, and coming-of-age story, Strasser's fantastical SF epic blends disparate pieces into a harmonious whole. The saga begins with 17-year-old Ishmael setting off from a ravaged, dying Earth for life aboard a large fishing trawler on the planet Cretacea... *Filled with luscious depictions of life at sea that harken back to the golden age of science fiction, Strasser weaves an engrossing tapestry that evokes a sense of wonder and calls to the imagination.* -- **PUBLISHERS WEEKLY**

You don't need to have read *Moby-Dick* to enjoy Strasser's science-fiction retelling. Ishmael wakes from stasis aboard the Pequod, on the pristine planet Cretacea, where he plans to earn enough to pay his foster parents' passage off of Earth. The bulk of *the novel is an old-fashioned maritime adventure, filled with details of the sea life: close quarters, harpoon hunts, pirate attacks, storms, and shipwrecks. Strasser (Fallout, 2013) adds dystopian corporations, time travel, a secret legacy. Recommend to readers of pure adventure on the high seas.* -- Krista Hutley, **BOOKLIST**

"The story rips along at a faultless pace, thrusting us into the middle of high-seas adventures... The characters are finely wrought, from Ishmael and his friends; to Charity, the Pequod's stasis tech; to Tarnmoor, the old blind sailor who survived Ahab's first encounter with the Giant Terrafin... *Events careen toward a conclusion that must be read to be believed. No spoiler alerts here. Even readers who often predict a story's ending are very unlikely to guess all the components of this grand finale.*" - **NEW YORK JOURNAL OF BOOKS**

"*A thrilling interplanetary adventure based on Herman Melville's classic story of revenge and madness,*

Moby Dick*...** 17-year-old Ishmael is amazed by Cretacea, the clean, beautiful planet on which he finds himself. He hopes to earn enough money to save his foster parents, before the foul air and lack of water back on the coal-burning, oxygen-depleted Earth kill them. ***High-tech gadgets, from drones to virtual reality goggles, add a modern twist to this apocalyptic adaptation, part political satire, part environmental cautionary tale. --Lynn Becker, *Shelf Awareness*

Strasser's pacing is flawless, and his characters well drawn. While Ishmael's true past is unveiled slowly, readers will find themselves drawn to his obvious bravery and loyalty from the very first page...A must-read maritime adventure story for a new generation.

—School Library Journal

Equal parts *Moby-Dick* retelling, environmental cautionary tale, and coming-of-age story, Strasser's fantastical SF epic blends disparate pieces into a harmonious whole...Strasser weaves an engrossing tapestry that evokes a sense of wonder and calls to the imagination.

—Publishers Weekly

You don't need to have read *Moby-Dick* to enjoy Strasser's science-fiction retelling...Recommend to readers of pure adventure (with no romance!) on the high seas.

—Booklist

With *The Beast of Cretacea*, Todd Strasser (*The Wave*; *Give a Boy a Gun*; *Fallout*) crafts a thrilling interplanetary adventure based on Herman Melville's classic story of revenge and madness, *Moby Dick*...High-tech gadgets, from drones to virtual reality goggles, add a modern twist to this apocalyptic adaptation, part political satire, part environmental cautionary tale.

—Shelf Awareness

...a pure adventure core...

—Kirkus Reviews

There's a whole lot of book here: gripping descriptions of an Earth polluted beyond belief, time travel, long passages featuring gory sea battles, mystical island folk, and, of course, the overlaps with a very famous book...

—Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books

Those who enjoyed Rives' Across the Universe trilogy (Razorbill) will enjoy this new spin on saving planet Earth.

—School Library Connection

About the Author

Todd Strasser is the internationally best-selling author of numerous books for children and teens, including *Fallout* and the classics *The Wave* and *Give a Boy a Gun*, which are taught in classrooms around the world. Todd Strasser lives in New York.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Mildred Parker:

Have you spare time for the day? What do you do when you have a lot more or little spare time? Yep, you

can choose the suitable activity to get spend your time. Any person spent their particular spare time to take a move, shopping, or went to the actual Mall. How about open or maybe read a book titled The Beast of Cretacea? Maybe it is being best activity for you. You realize beside you can spend your time along with your favorite's book, you can cleverer than before. Do you agree with it is opinion or you have additional opinion?

Glenn Hancock:

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Ida Torres:

Book is to be different for each grade. Book for children until eventually adult are different content. As it is known to us that book is very important for people. The book The Beast of Cretacea was making you to know about other understanding and of course you can take more information. It is very advantages for you. The book The Beast of Cretacea is not only giving you a lot more new information but also being your friend when you really feel bored. You can spend your current spend time to read your reserve. Try to make relationship with all the book The Beast of Cretacea. You never truly feel lose out for everything in case you read some books.

Grace Godwin:

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