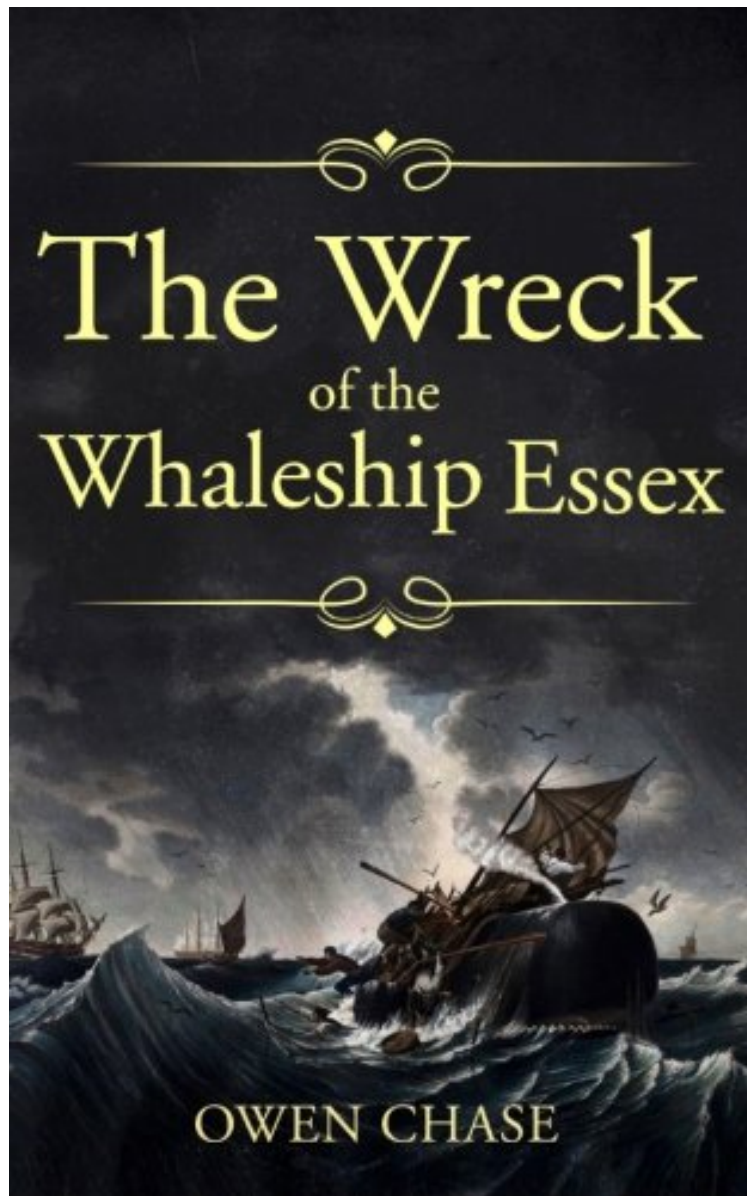


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The Wreck of the Whaleship "Essex"

Owen Chase

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Owen Chase : The Wreck of the Whaleship "Essex" before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Wreck of the Whaleship "Essex":

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The Real Story that inspired Moby DickBy Sandy G.This book is good for what it is. It is, a first hand accounting by the captain of the Whaleship Essex that was struck and sunk by a

whale. It covers the survivors in five small boats and their ordeal on the open sea, hoping for land or a boat to rescue them. I was specially interested in reading this book because my great, great grandfather was a Whaler out of New Bedford, MA during that time period. If you like true accounts of harrowing situations of calamity and survival, you might really enjoy this story. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. One of the BEST BOOKS EVER full of heart, day-in-the-life details of a First Mate on a whale ship, and survival at sea. By Anna M. Tutor This is just one of the best books EVER! Fast read and great paced and the most interesting details about whaling and sailing/navigation when it was a 'hit the broadside of a barn' adventure yet... a job. Suddenly I understand pirates and buried treasure on secret islands, etc. The whale accounts and the sea turtles make me sad but I love learning by just reading a story. Such heart. One of my top 10 books of all time. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating Historical Account By Andrew H. Berks Fascinating story and interesting prose written in 1821. Ron Howard's movie "In the Heart of the Sea" (also an excellent film) is based on this story. Surprisingly readable for such an old book. The Wikipedia article says Chase used a ghost writer, which would explain the high quality prose. The ghost writer is not named anywhere I know of.

This is the true story which inspired the major motion picture, *In the Heart of the Sea*, and Melville's classic *Moby Dick*. 1820, at the heart of the Pacific Ocean. Sensational in its time, the epic tale still has resonance today. On the morning of November 20th, 1820, the whaleship 'Essex' was struck by an enraged sperm whale. The boat started to sink, and the twenty-one crew members who made it into the lifeboats found themselves stranded 2,000 miles from land. They had no maps and little food. This is their extraordinary story. Over ninety days at sea, the crew faced storms, starvation and even the last resort of cannibalism. Owen Chase, the first mate of the 'Essex', tells first-hand the harrowing account of the sailors' attempts to survive against all odds. 'The Wreck of the Whaleship Essex' is a thrilling saga and classic tale of courage in the face of insurmountable odds. Owen Chase (1797-1869) was the First Mate of the whale-ship 'Essex' and wrote 'The Wreck of the Whaleship Essex' about his experiences during and after its deadly wreckage. It was first published in 1821. Albion Press is an imprint of Endeavour Press, the UK's leading independent digital publisher. For more information on our titles please sign up to our newsletter at www.endeavourpress.com. Each week you will receive updates on free and discounted ebooks. Follow us on Twitter: @EndeavourPress and on Facebook via <http://on.fb.me/1HweQV7>. We are always interested in hearing from our readers. Endeavour Press believes that the future is now.

.com On November 20, 1820, a sperm whale repeatedly rammed the whaleship Essex, causing her to sink. The 20-man crew were left in three small, open boats in the middle of the Pacific with little food and only 200 gallons of water. Bereft of charts, the boats sailed due east in the hopes of sighting land. Battered by storms, the boats became separated. Some 90 days later, a few men were rescued--but not before they had been forced to make a terrible decision. I have no language to paint the horrors of our situation. To shed tears was indeed altogether unavailing and withal unmanly; yet I was not able to deny myself the relief they served to afford me. This harrowing, first-hand account by First Mate Owen Chase was originally published in 1821, just months after he returned home to Nantucket, and the unfortunate Essex and her crew passed into legend. Twenty years after the wreck, young William Chase, Owen's son, was serving on the Lima when it met another whaler called the Acushnet. The crews spent some time together, and Chase told his father's story to 21-year-old Herman Melville, and lent him a copy of his father's book. The story clearly caught Melville's imagination--"The reading of this wondrous story upon the landless sea, and close to the very latitude of the shipwreck had a surprising effect on me"--and ten years later he published *Moby Dick*. Literary inspiration aside, *The Wreck of the Whaleship Essex* is a well-told, truly gripping tale. As Gary Kinder (who, as the author of *Ship of Gold in the Deep Blue Sea*, knows a thing or two about shipwrecks) notes in his introduction, "As you sit in your chair, the subliminal thought recurs: My god, this really happened." --Sunny Delaney On November 20, 1820, a sperm whale repeatedly rammed the whaleship Essex, causing her to sink. The 20-man crew were left in three small, open boats in the middle of the Pacific with little food and only 200 gallons of water. Bereft of charts, the boats sailed due east in the hopes of sighting land. Battered by storms, the boats became separated. Some 90 days later, a few men were rescued--but not before they had been forced to make a terrible decision. I have no language to paint the horrors of our situation. To shed tears was indeed altogether unavailing and withal unmanly; yet I was not able to deny myself the relief they served to afford me. This harrowing, first-hand account by First Mate Owen Chase was originally published in 1821, just months after he returned home to Nantucket, and the unfortunate Essex and her crew passed into legend. Twenty years after the wreck, young William Chase, Owen's son, was serving on the Lima when it met another whaler called the Acushnet. The crews spent some time together, and Chase told his father's story to 21-year-old Herman Melville, and lent him a copy of his father's book. The story clearly caught Melville's imagination--"The reading of this wondrous story upon the landless sea, and close to the very latitude of the shipwreck had a surprising effect on me"--and ten years later he published *Moby Dick*. Literary inspiration aside, *The Wreck of the Whaleship Essex* is a well-told, truly gripping tale. As Gary Kinder (who, as the author of *Ship of Gold in the Deep Blue Sea*, knows a thing or two about shipwrecks) notes in his introduction, "As you sit in your chair, the

subliminal thought recurs: My god, this really happened." (.com - Sunny Delaney)'this year's equivalent of THE PERFECT STORM' Christopher Frayling in the Observer The Wreck of the Whaleship Essex was reviewed in the Times Metro 15/16 April The story of the sinking of the whaleship Essex which became the inspiration for Melville's Moby Dick. First published in 1821 this is an eyewitness account from the first mate of the ramming, by a sperm whale of a Nantucket whaler in the South Pacific in November 1820. Twenty sailors made for a few flimsy boats with only scraps of food. The next 90 days of fear and starvation whittled their number down, driving the survivors to confront a powerful taboo to satisfy their hunger. (Kirkus (UK)) About the Author Iola Haverstick was a reporter for Life for several years. She is a former book editor and reviewer.