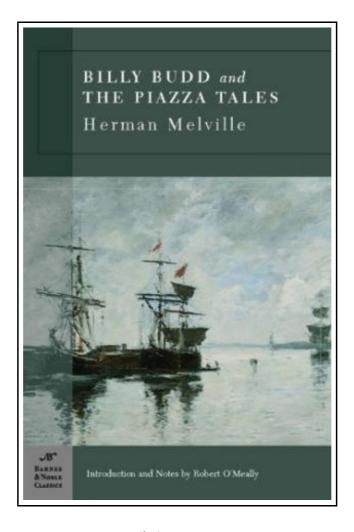
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Barnes & Noble Classics. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 384 pages. Dimensions: 7.9in. x 4.9in. x 1.1in.Billy Budd and the Piazza Tales, by Herman Melville, is part of the Barnes and Noble Classicsseries, which offers quality editions at affordable prices to the student and the general reader, including new scholarship, thoughtful design, and pages of carefully crafted extras. Here are some of the remarkable features of Barnes and Noble Classics: All editions are beautifully designed and are printed to superior specifications; some include illustrations of historical interest. Barnes and Noble Classics pulls together a constellation of influencesbiographical, historical, and literaryto enrich each readers understanding of these enduring works. Largely neglected in his own lifetime, Herman Melville mastered not only the great American novel but also the short story and novella forms. In Billy Budd and The Piazza Tales, Melville reveals an uncanny awareness of the inscrutable nature of reality. Published posthumously in 1924, Billy Budd is a masterpiece second only to Melvilles Moby-Dick. This complex short novel tells the story of the handsome sailor Billy who, provoked by a false charge, accidentally kills the satanic master-at-arms. Unable to defend himself due to a stammer, he is hanged, going willingly to his fate. Although typically ambiguous, Billy Budd is seen by many as a testament to Melvilles ultimate reconciliation with the incongruities and injustices of life. The Piazza Tales (1856) comprises six short stories, including the perpetually popular Benito Cereno and Bartleby, a tale of a scrivener who repeatedly distills his mordant criticism of the workplace into the deceptively simple phrase I would prefer not to. Robert G. OMeally is Zora Neale Hurston Professor of Literature at Columbia University, where he has served on the faculty for seventeen years; since 1999 he has been the director of Columbias Center for Jazz...



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