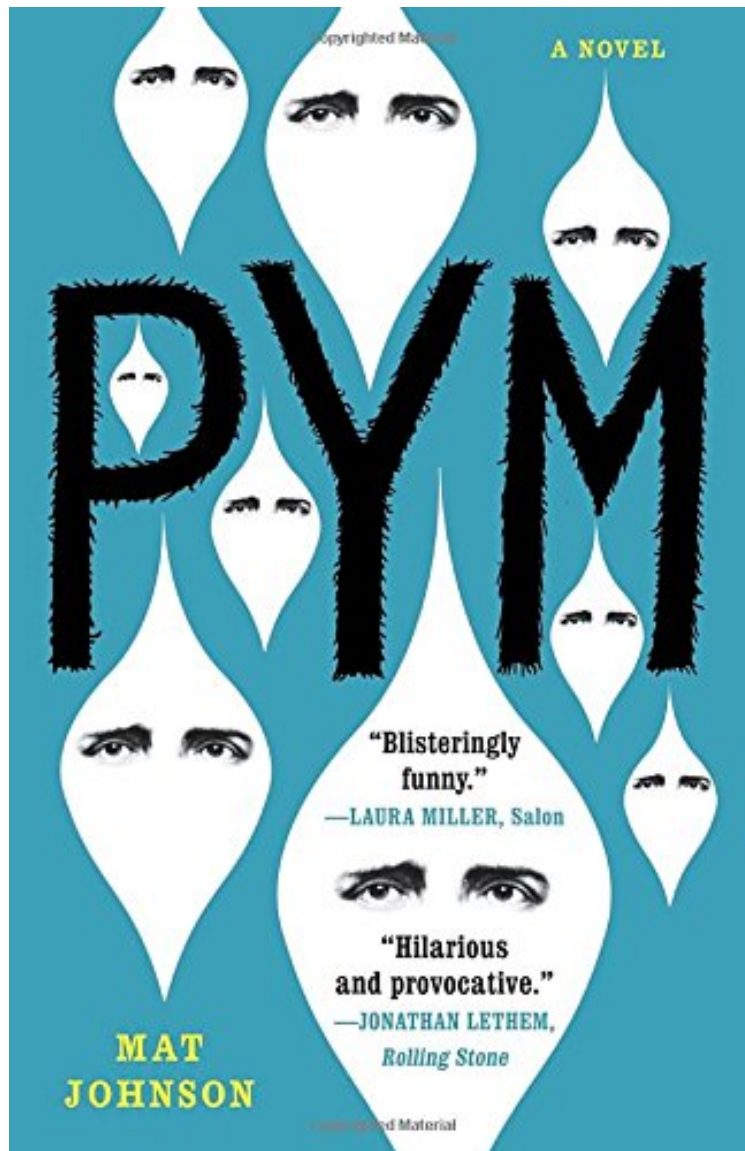


(Mobile book) Pym: A Novel

Pym: A Novel

Mat Johnson

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Mat Johnson : Pym: A Novel before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Pym: A Novel:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Imaginative novelBy jabouWonderful novel. I think that Mr Johnson has a gifted way of imagining a story. He has a great sense of satire and social relavance. Enjoyed reading it very much.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Funny, strange, thought provoking. An answer to Edgar Allan Poe's racist only novel.By RedlipMat Johnson is a find...I'm working my way through all his books. This one is very

odd, being based on an even more odd book by Edgar Allan Poe. Part adventure, part fantasy, always funny, and a commentary on race relations in America. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Interesting until before the end of the book
By Jacqueline Bodner
Not as revelatory of human nature as predicted.

THE SHARPEST AND MOST UNUSUAL STORY I READ LAST YEAR . . . [Mat] Johnsons satirical vision roves as freely as Kurt Vonneguts and is colored with the same sort of passionate humanitarianism. Maud Newton, New York Times Magazine
NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY The Washington Post Vanity Fair Houston Chronicle The Seattle Times Salon National Post The A.V. Club
Recently canned professor of American literature Chris Jaynes has just made a startling discovery: the manuscript of a crude slave narrative that confirms the reality of Edgar Allan Poes strange and only novel, The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym of Nantucket. Determined to seek out Tsalal, the remote island of pure and utter blackness that Poe describes, Jaynes convenes an all-black crew of six to follow Pym's trail to the South Pole, armed with little but the firsthand account from which Poe derived his seafaring tale, a bag of bones, and a stash of Little Debbie snack cakes. Thus begins an epic journey by an unlikely band of adventurers under the permafrost of Antarctica, beneath the surface of American history, and behind one of literatures great mysteries. Outrageously entertaining, [Pym] brilliantly re-imagines and extends Edgar Allan Poes enigmatic and unsettling Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym of Nantucket. . . . Part social satire, part meditation on race in America, part metafiction and, just as important, a rollicking fantasy adventure . . . reminiscent of Philip Roth in its seemingly effortless blend of the serious, comic and fantastic. Michael Dirda, The Washington Post
Blisteringly funny. Laura Miller, Salon
Relentlessly entertaining. The New York Times Book Review
Imagine Kurt Vonnegut having a beer with Ralph Ellison and Jules Verne. Vanity Fair
Screamingly funny . . . Reading Pym is like opening a big can of whoop-ass and then marveling gleefully at all the mayhem that ensues. Houston Chronicle

From Booklist
Chris Jaynes, professor of African American studies, has been denied tenure for his refusal to sit on the Diversity Committee at his university and for his intense interest in Edgar Allan Poe. Enraged, he nearly implodes before discovering a lost manuscript proving that Poes only novel, The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym of Nantucket, is a factual account. Jaynes devises a mission to find the lost, black-inhabited island near Antarctica described in Poes narrative, setting off with an all-black crew that includes his seafaring cousin; his obese friend Garth; his ex-fiance, Angela, and her husband, Nathaniel; and two flamboyant mechanics. They discover that something else described in Poes narrative is also real: giant, yeti-like, albino humanoids living in large colonies below the ice in Antarctica. This extension of Poes adventure is a romp that surprises on every page. Funny, insightful, racially important, Pym is a death-defying adventure and a probing examination of notions of race, even at the farthest ends of the earth. --Julie Hunt "BLISTERINGLY FUNNY...a full-fledged and fiendishly inventive inversion of Poe's [Pym], a series of bizarre encounters I can't bring myself to spoil, each one more deliciously pointed than the last." Laura Miller, Salon
"SCREAMINGLY FUNNY...there's no shortage of thought and scholarship and experience underpinning Pym, but Johnson doesn't let any of it bog him down. On the contrary, reading Pym is like opening A BIG CAN OF WHOOP-ASS and then marveling -- gleefully -- at all the mayhem that ensues." Maggie Galehouse, Houston Chronicle
"RELENTLESSLY ENTERTAINING...Its no easy task to balance social satire against life-threatening adventure, the allegory against the gory, but Johnsons hand is steady and his ability to play against Poes text masterly. The book is polyphonous and incisive, an uproarious and hard-driving journey." New York Times Book
"RIOTOUS...Jaynes never learns much about the white pathology and mindset, but Mr. Johnson knows plenty about the character types he skewers." Wall Street Journal
LOONY, disrespectful, and sharp. Johnson's Pym is a welcome riff on the surrealistic shudder-fest that is Poe's original. I'll stop there, but Johnson's inventiveness never does. NPR's Fresh Air
"Mat Johnson's new novel is nothing short of fantastic, in every sense. I fell in love with the voice, the tone and the world of Pym. This is an adventure novel, a work of historical and social commentary, a rumination on identity. The only problem I could find with this novel is that I didn't write it. It's a beautiful piece of work."--Percival Everett, author of I Am Not Sidney Poitier
"Mat Johnson has come here to chew bubble gum and kick ass, and he's all out of bubble gum. Pym is an adventure, a satire, and a bracing political debate all rolled into one brilliant novel. Edgar Allen Poe has inspired many authors but Mat Johnson has the inspired audacity to both honor and discredit the man, often in the same sentence. I imagine Poe choking on half the things Johnson writes in this novel, and tipping his tiny hat in admiration to the rest."--Victor LaValle, author of Big Machine
PYM reframes far more than Poe it reframes everything American, from the whiteness of Ahabs whale to Detroit bus drivers; from DNA testing to tenure review; from the Gatsbyesque dream of romantic love to the dream of Utopia; from our fear of life to our love of death. No one today writes inside the brilliant black mind better.--Alice Randall, author of The Wind Done Gone and Rebel Yell
Social criticism rubs shoulders with cutting satire in this high-concept adventure [PYM] is caustically hilarious as it offers a memorable take on America's racial pathology and the whole ugly story of our world.--Publishers Weekly, starred review
You can trust the veracity of this account: Mat Johnsons Pym is a spectacularly sly and nimble-footed send-up of this world, the next world, and all points in between. A satire with heart, as courageous as it is cunning. --Colson Whitehead, author of Sag Harbor
An acutely humorous, very original story that will delight lovers of literature

and fantasy alike.--Kirkus, starred review This extension of Poes adventure is a romp that surprises on every page. Funny, insightful...Pym is a death-defying adventure. Booklist Mat Johnson writes with all the probing intelligence of James Baldwin, the scalding satire of Dany Laferriere and the technique of a master craftsman, all of which make him one of the most exciting, important and gifted writers of his generation. Pym is a moving and accomplished novel. -- Chris Abani, author of *GraceLand* and *the Virgin of Flames*. About the Author Mat Johnson was born and raised in Philadelphia, and has lived most of his life elsewhere. He is the author of several novels and graphic novels including *Drop*, *Hunting in Harlem*, and *Incognegro*. Johnson is a faculty member at the University of Houston Creative Writing Program and lives in Texas with his wife and children. From the Hardcover edition.