What does Melville studies look like after a phase of intense critical activity? This book addresses that question by analyzing Melville as a writer who was keenly interested in the pleasures, limits, and possibilities of various reading practices. It collects and assesses all of the major new trends in Melville studies. Essays, written by some of the leading scholars in the field, test out emerging critical methods. They explore Melville’s centrality to American literary studies and consider the full range of Melville’s career, connecting his poetry to his prose. This collection reimagines Melville as a theorist as well as a writer, approaching his works as philosophical forms in their own right. It shows how scholars are changing Melville studies not only by reorienting the texts upon which those studies are based, but also by incorporating new approaches that unsettle prior assumptions and interpretive claims.

CODY MARRS is Associate Professor of English at the University of Georgia. He is the author of Nineteenth-Century American Literature and the Long Civil War and the co-editor of Timelines of American Literature.
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THE NEW MELVILLE STUDIES

EDITED BY
CODY MARRS
University of Georgia
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