

Genoa

Paul Metcalf

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"[Genoa] invites us to pass our minds down a new but ancient track, to become, ourselves, both fact and fiction, and to discover something true about the geography of time."—William Gass, *The New York Times*

"Genoa is a spectacular confrontation with Melville's work, the journals of Columbus and molecular biology—all folded into a hallucinatory narrative about two brothers and their different paths through the American century."—Publishers Weekly

"Much like his great-grandfather, Herman Melville, Paul Metcalf brings an extraordinary diversity of materials into the complex patterns of analogy and metaphor, to affect a common term altogether brilliant in its imagination."—Robert Creeley

"A unique work of historical and literary imagination, eloquent and powerful. I know of nothing like it."—Howard Zinn

First published in 1965, *Genoa* is Paul Metcalf's purging of the burden of his relationship to his great-grandfather Herman Melville. In his signature polyphonic style, a storm-tossed Indiana attic becomes the site of a reckoning with the life of Melville; with Columbus, and his myth; and between two brothers—one, an MD who refuses to practice; the other, an executed murderer. Genoa is a triumph, a novel without peer, that vibrates and sings a quintessentially American song.

Paul Metcalf (1917–99) was an American writer and the great-grandson of Herman Melville. His three volume *Collected Works* were published by Coffee House Press in 1996.



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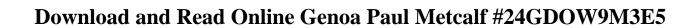
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