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Review of Leiren-Young, Mark: The Killer Whale Who Changed the World

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Leiren-Young, Mark. "The Killer Whale that Changed the World". Greystone. 2015

Moby Doll was a killer whale (*Orca orcinus*) captured from the Pacific Ocean by the Vancouver Aquarium in 1964. During the 87 days the whale lived in captivity researchers learned about orca behavior, diet, and physiology. The SPCA of British Columbia protested the capture and holding of whales by aquaria as inhumane, and supporters of the new organization, Greenpeace, gained ground. Leiren-Young, a passionate environmentalist, is a Canadian journalist and screenwriter, who weaves whaling history and the growth of scientific knowledge of the whale life cycle and social behavior into this account of the people and politics of the Vancouver Aquarium in the 1960's and 1970's. By 1977 both Canada and the United States had outlawed killer whale capture. VERDICT : This well-written book will appeal to the general reader interested in whales, but Philip Hoare's "The Whale" (2010) and Alexandra Morton's "Listening to Whales" (2002) are more comprehensive treatments of the subject. A list of references and websites is provided.