

THE EYE OF THE WHALE

A Rescue Story

Jennifer O'Connell

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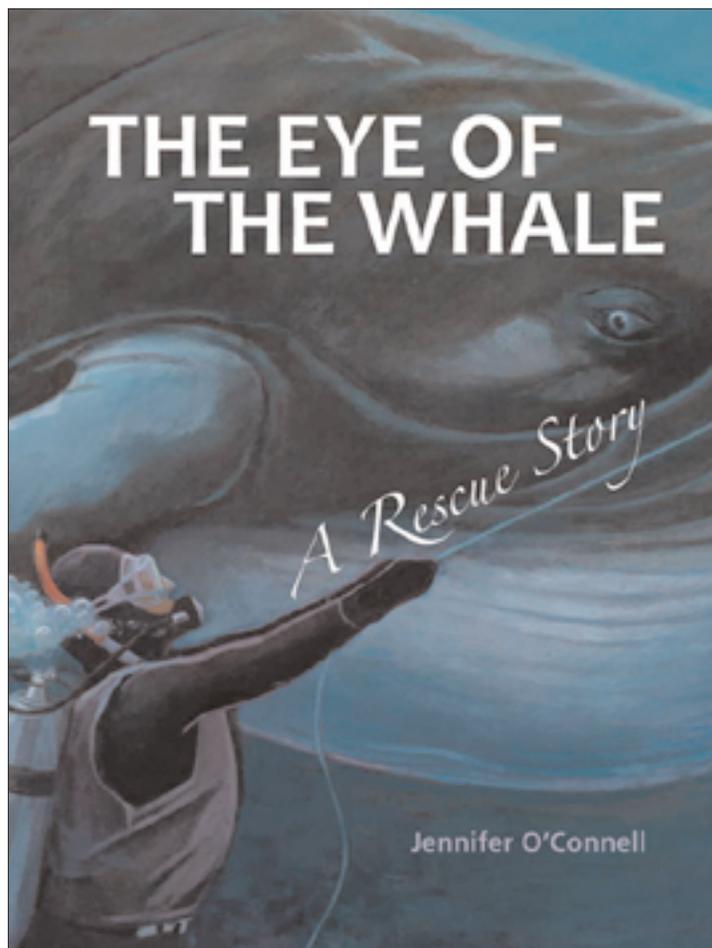
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Children / Nature

• “This true story of courage and compassion is brought to life by stunning illustrations. You will be awed and humbled by the deep connections possible between humans and animals. And you will be inspired to do all you can to help protect whales.” —**Jane Goodall, PhD, DBE, Founder of the Jane Goodall Institute & UN Messenger of Peace**

• “This is a rare and important story about humane efforts to help a free-swimming whale— with a happy ending. It will inspire readers of all ages to become stewards of the natural world.” —**Dr. Frances Gulland, DVM, Senior Scientist, The Marine Mammal Center, Sausalito, California**



On a cool December morning near San Francisco, a distress call was radioed to shore by a local fisherman. He had discovered a humpback whale tangled in hundreds of yards of crab-trap lines, struggling to stay afloat so that she could breathe. A team of volunteers answered the call, and four divers risked their lives to rescue the enormous animal. What followed was a rare and remarkable demonstration of animal behavior.

As people found out about the event, questions arose. Did the whale help the divers by staying still and calm as they cut the lines or was she just exhausted? Was the whale full of joy after being freed or did she swim in circles to stretch out her huge body after being tied up for so long? How do we explain the whale nudging all the divers, then looking directly at them? (The divers said that this was one of the most fantastic moments of their lives.)

This celebrated story, beautifully depicted in Jennifer O’Connell’s mesmerizing paintings, will make you wonder about animal emotions and the unique connections we can have with other animals—even whales.

• “This is a beautiful story, one of the most moving I have heard about, showing that a whale is capable of gratitude and can understand that some humans, at least, want to help whales, not harm them. The paintings and the story are simply enchanting. I don’t believe it is possible to read this without tears, but good tears for a change! I highly recommend it to all children, who will understand its significance immediately!” —**Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson, author of *When Elephants Weep***



Jennifer O’Connell is the bestselling author and illustrator of the picture book, *Ten Timid Ghosts*. She is the author of *It’s Halloween Night!* and the illustrator of *A Garden of Whales*, among others. A two-time recipient of the Christopher Award, Jennifer also creates illustrations for book covers and magazines.

To research *The Eye of the Whale*, Jennifer traveled to San Francisco where she met Captain Mick Menigoz and rode his rescue boat, *Superfish*, out into the Pacific Ocean to the area where the events in the book took place. This experience fueled her inspiration as she created the images and words of this extraordinary story.

Jennifer lives in Bethesda, Maryland, and speaks frequently about her books and the bookmaking process. Visit her online at www.JenniferOConnellArt.com.

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