

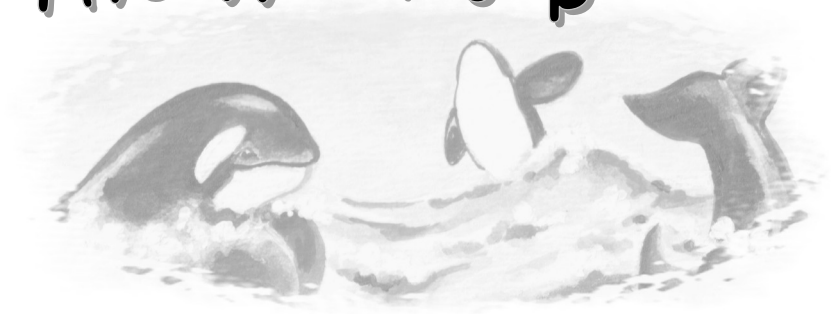
The Whales' Secret



A story by Rosemary Phillips Illustrated by Julie Draper

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The Whales' Secret



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Quills Quotes & Notes

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E-Book ISBN: 978-0-9866066-8-7

Printed Format ISBN: 978-0-9866066-2-5

Other books by Rosemary Phillips:

Sliced Bread (1999 Loonbook)

One Seed (First Edition 2002) One Seed (Second Edition 2010 - Printed & E-Book)

Une Petite Graine (2010 Printed and E-Book)

Persian One Seed and English and Persian One Seed (2010 Printed and E-Books)

Colour You Healthy (2010—Printed and E-Book)

To Lisa, Sarah, Angie and Jacquie; and to the children of Alert Bay,
home of the killer whale, and children of Okanagan Falls.

Thanks go to friends and family, Julie Draper for her insight into the story
and illustrations, Mihaela, Joyce and John, Joyce and Noorali,
and the source from whence the story came.

Printed and bound in Boundary Country, BC, Canada

Shhh!

The whales have a secret...

It all began one day when young orca whales were having lots of fun playing in the ocean.

They didn't watch where they were going and swam far, far away from home, and deeper and deeper than they had ever done before. Down and down they went until they came to the sandy ocean floor.



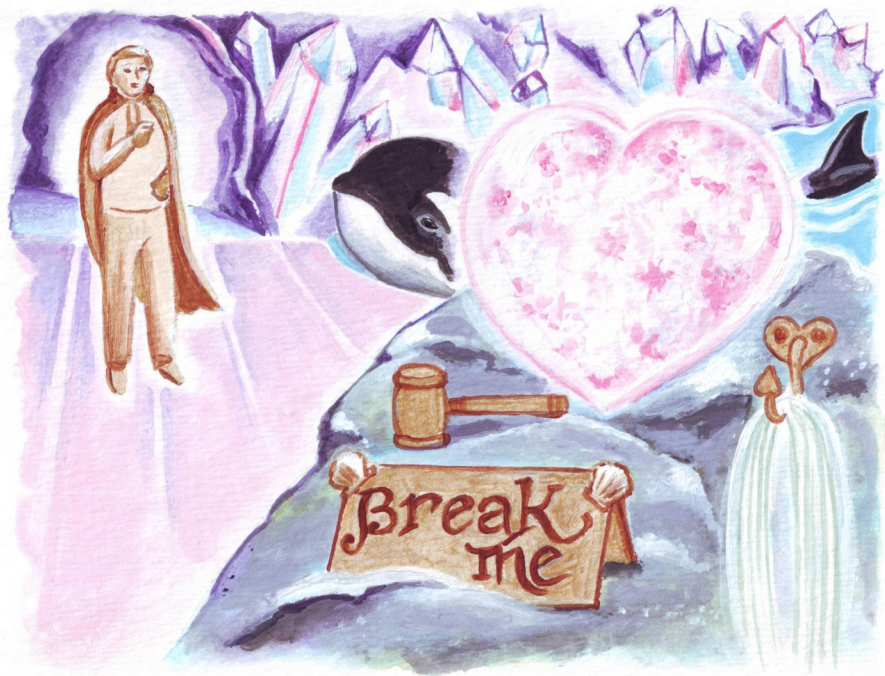
It was dark, the darkest they had ever seen. In the dark they saw a glowing statue of a beautiful female Human Being. The statue's eyes shone into the dark like beacons from two very strong flashlights.

The whales followed the beacons down a long dark tunnel and saw in the distance a glowing light. When they reached the light they poked their heads out of the water. They found themselves in the middle of a really big crystal cave. It was bright, the kind of bright you need sunglasses for.



They saw a tall statue of a male Human Being. It pointed to a big slab of rock. On the rock was a huge Crystal Heart filled with flickering lights, and a sign that said, "Break me". Beside the sign was a big hammer and a hook holding shining silver cords.

The whales whistled amongst themselves in whale talk. They saw a ledge. If they got onto the ledge they could get a closer look at the Crystal Heart, the sign that said "Break me", the hammer and the shining silver cords.



One by one, as the whales came up onto the ledge, they magically transformed into Whale People, like Human Beings of every race from around the World, and wore clothes of many different cultures.

It was very strange to have legs and arms and they had never worn clothes before. They felt very heavy and walked very slowly towards the slab of rock, and stood around it in a circle, holding hands. They stared at the Crystal Heart, the sign that said “Break me”, the hammer and the shining silver cords.



Who was to break the Crystal Heart? They chose the eldest Whale Person to do the job. She stepped forward, took hold of the hammer and brought it down in one swift powerful blow.

The Crystal Heart shattered into many tiny fragments and the flickering lights flew out around the cave singing, "We're free, we're free!" They zipped here and zapped there, and after flying around and around they landed on the chests of the Whale People and merged into their hearts.



It was then that the Whale People knew they had to journey around the World to learn, to live, to love, and to share the wisdom that had been passed on to them from their Ancient Ones.

The whales loved each other deeply and they loved living with family and friends. As Whale People they did not welcome the idea of travelling off on their own into strange lands. But, they knew within their hearts it was something they had to do. It was their calling. It was their destiny.



They stood
for a long time
in the circle, holding hands.
They gave blessings to each other,
and blessings for each of their journeys.
They asked for safety and well-being.
They prayed that one day they
would return again to be
with their families
and friends.



One by one the Whale People each picked up a fragment of the crystal heart and tied it around their neck with a piece of the shining silver cord.

One by one the Whale People left the Crystal Cave through the many tunnels that appeared in the walls around them.

And so they each began a long journey out into the World.

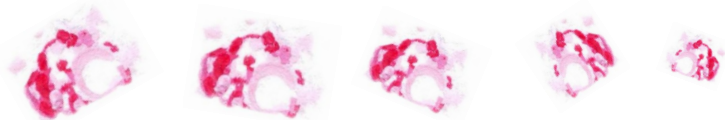


For many generations the Whale People lived with Human Beings. They learned, they loved and they shared the wisdom given them by the Ancient Ones.

One day the crystal fragments on the shining silver cords started to glow. The Whale People then knew it was time to return to the Crystal Cave, to their home in the deep ocean, their families and friends.

The Whale People were now very old and moved much slower. It took a long time for them to journey back to the Crystal Cave.

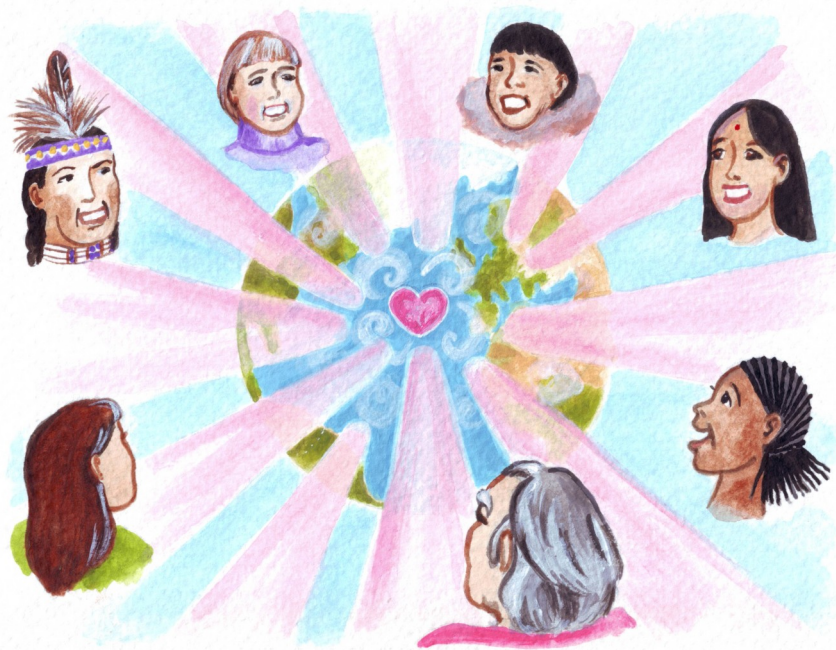
As each of the Whale People entered the Crystal Cave they took the crystal fragment off the silver cord that hung around their neck and placed it back on the slab of rock.



They stood in a circle, holding hands, and waited patiently for all their friends to join them. They were so happy to be together again. While they waited they shared stories of their journeys and their lives with Human Beings.

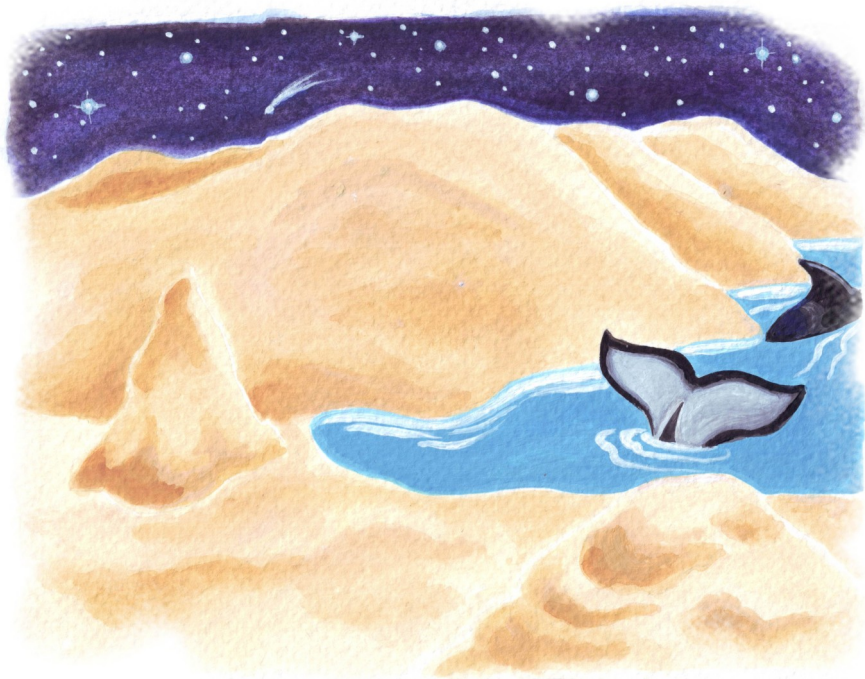
As the last Whale Person entered the Crystal Cave and placed their crystal fragment on the slab of rock all the fragments melted back together into a Crystal Heart. The Crystal Heart then exploded into brilliant light.

The light reached every corner of the cave then wrapped itself around each of the Whale People. It burst out of the cave, went around the World and entered the heart of every Human Being, filling them with the love, wisdom and knowledge of the Whale People and their Ancient Ones.



One by one the Whale People walked slowly to the ledge and lowered themselves into the water where they changed back into young whales. They swam out of the Crystal Cave, along the dark tunnel and on to the deep ocean.

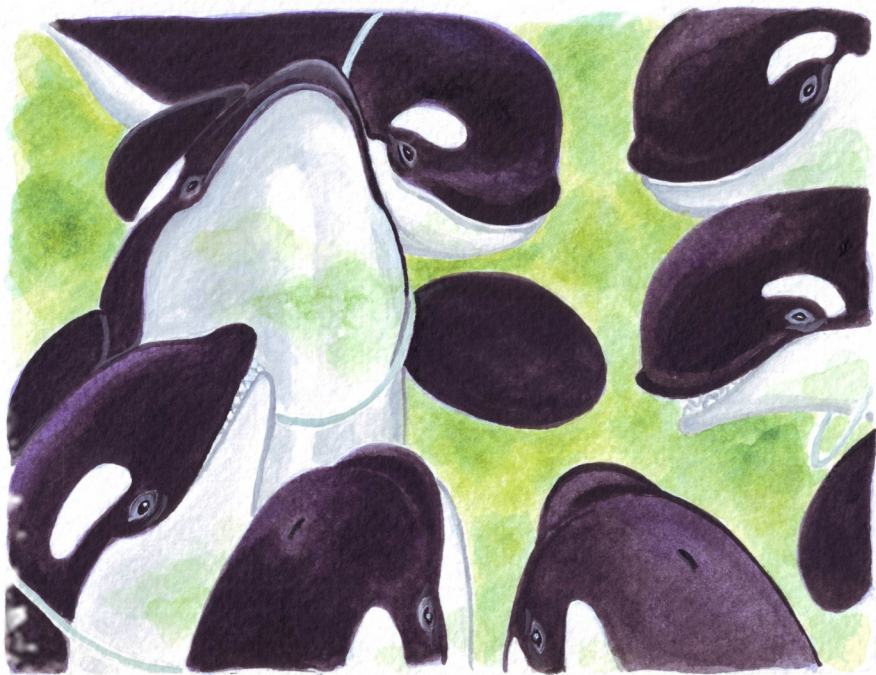
As the last whale left the Crystal Cave, the statue of the male Human Being, the slab of rock, the hammer, the sign that said “Break Me” and the cave itself dissolved into the ocean floor and became a desert with sand dunes under a starry night sky. It was as though there had never been a cave.



When the last whale left the tunnel it too slowly disappeared. It was as though there had never been a tunnel.

When the last whale passed the statue of the female Human Being it slowly crumbled into a pile of sand on the ocean floor as though it had never been a statue.

The whales circled around whistling and blowing bubbles. They were so happy to be together again in their own form. But they were puzzled by what had happened.



Had they really been down a long tunnel to a large Crystal Cave?

Had they really turned into Whale People?

Did they really journey to all areas of the World and live with Human Beings?

Or was it all just a dream?

If it was just a dream, where did those shining silver cords around their necks come from?



They suddenly heard their families and friends calling them home. They swam as fast as they could and arrived home just in time for supper.

They were very hungry. While they ate they told their families and friends about their adventures; about the statues, the tunnel, the Crystal Cave and the Crystal Heart, the sign that said “Break me”, the hammer, the silver cords, and the World of Human Beings. When they had finished their stories they gave their silver cords to their families as gifts.

Many generations of whales and Human Beings have come and gone since that day, and Human Beings have spent many hundreds of years searching for the Cave of the Crystal Heart.

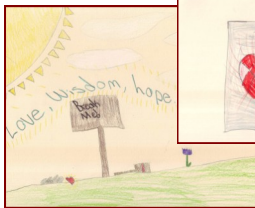
Legend has it that the Cave of the Crystal Heart is where Human Beings will find the source of all love and wisdom.

But the whales know differently:



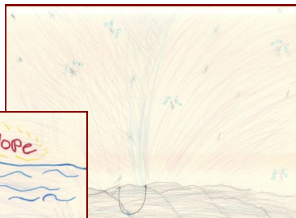
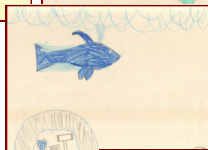
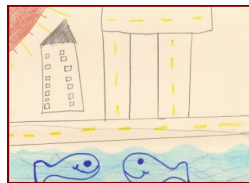
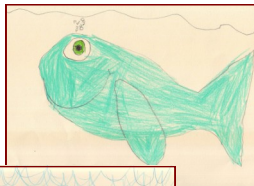
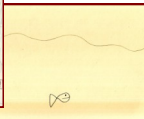
It's the whales' secret -
and they're not telling.

Children's Art Gallery

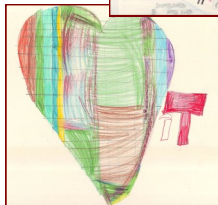
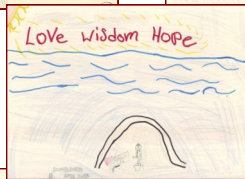


These are drawings done
by children in
Okanagan Falls after they
listened to the story of
“The Whales’ Secret”.





Send along your drawings to
Quills Quotes & Notes and they will be
included in The Whales' Secret Art
Gallery on the internet.



Some questions to think about...

There are different kinds of whales in the world. Can you name some of them?

Where do whales live?

What do *you* think is the whales' secret?

What does this story mean to you?

Do you have a secret? A dream of something that you would love to do?



Rosemary Phillips—Writer

Rosemary is a writer and singer-songwriter who enjoys playing with words and creating little books, stories and songs for children and the child within each of us. This story “picked” Rosemary. Every time she reads it she finds new meaning and hopes that you will too. She lives with Kiarra the Kat who supervises, makes sure Rosemary stops for breaks and constantly lets Rosemary know her opinion on how things are going.



Julie Draper—Illustrator

Julie spent many years with whales on the West Coast of Vancouver Island in Canada, and worked on a whale sightseeing boat out of Tofino. She has illustrated children's books and created beautiful paintings of nature and wild life. When Julie first heard this story she knew she had to illustrate it; and so she has created these wonderful acrylic paintings. Julie now lives in the mountainous regions of British Columbia with her partner Michael and their dogs and cats.



“The Whales’ Secret”—young whales swam further and further, and deeper and deeper than they had ever done before... This is a simple story for all ages about the mystery of life, a story that holds different meaning for each and every reader.



“My favourite part is where the lights say they are free.” *Danika, Gr. 2*

“I like the whales. I really like fish.” *Aidon, Gr. 2*

“The beauty and mystery of this story is that it can be a metaphor for many things.” *Mihaela*