



Adrián Macho

Gerda Story of the Whale

Adrián Macho

Gerda

Story of the Whale



The last of the sunlight was reflected beyond the horizon, washing a soft carmine light over an old lighthouse on the coast. Screeching seagulls circled the lighthouse; some of them had even built themselves a nest.

Gerda joined them. She listened for hours to their news, which came from the ocean and from dry land. Although seagulls didn't have a very good reputation – everyone knew that they loved to gossip – for a while Gerda was able to forget the pain that lay deep inside her.



The ocean is endless, reaching areas where temperatures are truly tropical and other places where the polar winter is incredibly cold.

Brr-rr! How much colder it's become! thought Gerda. The farthest-flung parts of the ocean had always seemed to her very dignified and majestic. The endless distances and depths and the silence everywhere gave these places a mysterious, unearthly atmosphere.

Gerda was suddenly sad. Her mother's song had entered her mind.

*Swim the wide waters, child, your hope is all
Trust the sky to lead you to your goal.*

Squelch! This sound came from behind Gerda. *Squelch!* it came again. She turned around to see what was happening.

She saw three small penguins at play. They flopped into the water, then hopped out again and clawed their way back onto an ice floe. Captivated by this, Gerda came to the surface just behind them.

"You're *enormous!*" the penguin in the middle exclaimed in surprise.

"That's right, mega-huge!" added the one on the left.

"Hee-hee-hee," laughed the third.

"You're so huge, you can't even play with us!" honked the three of them in chorus. And with a loud splash, they jumped back into the water. They had quite lost interest in Gerda. But our dear whale friend wasn't to be discouraged. She leapt nimbly onto the floe before sliding into the sea, just as the penguins had done. The penguins were so surprised by this that their eyes almost popped out of their heads. But then they nodded – it might appear at first that a thing can't be done, but that isn't so important. If we overcome our fear, we can do a lot.



A loving narrative about an undersea world with impressive illustrations

Gerda the little whale has a happy childhood. But then something unexpected happens and Gerda is left alone, without her family. Feeling sad and lonely, she roams the oceans. Eventually she makes new friends – killer whales, penguins, seagulls, even an octopus! Each new friend teaches her something interesting. Not only does she learn about how others live, she discovers a lot about the fascinating world she is swimming through. But will little Gerda find what she is looking for?

