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# Geróa

A story of courage at sea





Since they found each other, Lars and his sister Gerda have been living in a school of whales in the magnificent Heavenly Bay of the north. Every evening, darkness falls on their home. With the coming of night, the sea's surface calms and is dressed in a dark robe – a robe so dark that a whale can barely see to the end of his or her nose.

It is said that someone hung the moon over the sea so that the blue whales, Belugas, sperm whales and killer whales need not be afraid of the dark, and that the whales give thanks for this by raising their voices in song over the murmur of the sea. One song stands out; it is the lullaby taught to Gerda and Lars by their mother.

*Stars shine bright in the dark night sky  
A new journey takes you far and wide  
You'll know the sea world in all its glory  
The sky looks down on every story.*

*One day we'll meet in a heavenly bay  
Though time divides us, eternity has its say  
Swim the wide waters, child, your hope is all  
Trust the sky to lead you to your goal.*





All the whales were very fond of this song – all but an old bowhead whale known as Mother Lisbet, who, when she heard it, frowned as if she had a whaler’s hook stuck in her brow.

Gerda and Lars had no idea why the old whale would glower so.

One day, they mustered up the courage to ask her. “Mother Lisbet, why don’t you like our song?” After sternly blowing air from the nostrils atop her head, so breaking the surface with a jet of water, she replied in a surprisingly gentle voice, “It’s a beautiful song. There’s none lovelier in the whole bay, perhaps in the whole wide sea. So why not sing all of it?”

“All of it?” Gerda and Lars didn’t understand what she meant.

“Yes, there’s more to come. If you travelled north from the bay to see the aurora, you would find... But who wants to listen to an old granny whale? Anyway, no one today is brave enough to make such a journey...” Having said this, Lisbet heaved a sigh and swam away beyond the reef.





“Not brave enough? More to come? What was Lisbet talking about? Do you think she knew our mum?” Gerda asked these questions as she tried to understand.

“Don’t be silly,” said her elder brother. “Lisbet is an old whale, so she’s probably confusing our song with another. Think no more about it.”

But in some corner of his whale’s soul, the same questions came to him. Maybe they should make the journey and try to find out how the song went on.

By the time the aurora appeared in the sky, Gerda and Lars could contain their curiosity no longer. They felt like heroes in a fairy tale. Having gathered all their courage, they decided to try to crack the mystery of the lost ending of the lullaby. They swam off towards the open sea.

“Lars, do you know what a friend once told me?” By talking, Gerda hoped to make the time pass more quickly. “Many years ago, a brother of our great-grandfather embarked on a swim around the world. As he roamed, he got to know new places. He travelled thousands and thousands of miles. Not just tens of thousands, but hundreds of thousands! Maybe even millions! All in a single month!”

Her brother cut her off. “By all the killer whales and narwhals! What nonsense!” he said. Having drawn himself up, he put Gerda right in solemn tones. “Next time someone pulls your fin like that, try asking him if he is exaggerating a little. You know how whales like to make things up. You can’t believe everything everyone tells you...”







## Gerda and her brother Lars swim off in search of their mother's lost song

Ever since they were reunited, Gerda and her once-lost brother Lars have joined voices to sing the lullaby their mother taught them when they were baby whales. One day, brother and sister learn that the song is longer than they thought, and, countering their fear of the unknown, they set off in search of the rest of it. On their way, they have surprise adventures and get to know many inhabitants of the undersea world. But will they manage to find the missing verses of Mum's song?

