

You stilled out toward the point, and you seem to be swimming faster than ever, as you rapidly approach your destination. Then you realize that, though you are much closer to the point, you are already opposite it, and the current is carrying you away from it. You swim a few strokes against the tide, but it is hopeless. There is nothing to do but stay afloat as long as you can and hope a boat will pick you up. Then there is no hope—a gigantic gray shark is heading right at you!

But it is not a shark! The great gray shape before you is the head of a humpback whale, and suddenly it has scooped you up with its wedge-shaped snout. The whale is propelling you through the water at terrific speed. You gasp for air and think of a prayer as you fly through waterfalls of foam and spray. Then with a violent wrench you are flipped into calm water; the whale has turned its great body and is swimming out to sea.

You look around and see that you are far down the beach, only a few dozen yards from shore! A moment later you pull yourself up and lie exhausted in the sand, forever a friend of the humpback whale.

The End