

THE HUMPBACK WHALE

Nettie

BASED ON REAL STORY FROM 2015

Nettie

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created in cooperation with Tess Hudson, marine biologist involved in rescue action in Iceland

[OPENING ILLUSTRATION – Nettie + her mom, other whales in the distance, tropical landscape in the distance, main focus on underwater big whale and smaller whale]

Based on real story, Book by Ania & Tess

Nettie is a story for early readers.

It's a story about a whale who got entangled in a fishing net.

It's a story about overcoming life changing problems.

It's a story that goes through 5 stages of grief and sends a message, bringing up many underwater problems of our times.

Nettie was born in tropical waters of south atlantic ocean where she was learning everything she from her mom. She knew that the faster she learns the sooner she will start her big journey to the north like every Humpback whale does.

- *I'm so proud of you Nettie! You are ready to go* - said her mom with a little glazed eyes.

And so... excited Nettie joyfully started her very first journey.

[1. FIRST ILLUSTRATION – bigger Nettie jumping out of water, her mom at the surface – swimming away]

She would swim and swim, exploring the ocean, admiring the vast underwater world full of gazers. cool looking fish and all kinds of weird looking creatures.

- *Hi, Albert! Looking good with that shell* – said Nettie to her good friend Crab Albert.

[2. SECOND ILLUSTRATION – Nettie in the ocean surrounded by cool stuff and crab somewhere]

She would come to the surface every now and then to take some fresh air. She would always greet the birds if she see them.

- *Hello Nettie!* - said Barbara, the northern gannet flying same direction as Nettie was swimming.

[3. THIRD ILLUSTRATION – Smiling Nettie at the surface, Gannet above her looking at her, more birds in the distance?]

[4. FOURTH ILLUSTRATION – Big tail and the net, focus on the tail & net]

Suddenly Nettie felt she couldn't swim so freely. She looked around and noticed something very heavy around her tail and flippers. She struggled and struggled to shake it off but nothing seem to help and she was feeling it's dragging her down in the ocean.

How this could have happened? - thought Nettie feeling lots of anxiety

[5. FIFTH ILLUSTRATION – Zoom in for sad Nettie face, dark water around, Net in the front layer of the picture – Expression of Nettie realising how bad the situation is] [Stage 1 - Denial]

Nettie was very scared. She was trying and trying to shake it off but it only made things worse. She looked around and could see other animals swimming away from her scared of her rapid movements.

- Why this had to happen to me? - she thought in anger.

[6. SIXTH ILLUSTRATION – Shocked crab Albert at the bottom of the ocean and big Nettie in the background covered in Net] [Stage 2 – Anger, Blaming]

Nettie reached the bottom of the sea. She was so tired of fighting and the net felt so heavy. She looked down and there was Albert, her good friend was so concerned about her.

- It's all humans. How can they be so careless about us. I will never be nice to any human again.

[7. SEVENTH ILLUSTRATION – Sad crab Albert trying to cut net around Nettie with no success] [Stage 2 – Anger]

- Let me help you Nettie! I will do all I can to get you free – said Albert
- You're way to small Albert – said Nettie and pushed Albert away

Albert became very sad with Nettie reaction but he knew she's very stressed and he should support her anyway. He climbed on a rock and screamed after her:

- I'm sure you will find a way to get free! Swim to the surface and ask birds for help.

[8. EIGHTH ILLUSTRATION – Nettie aiming for the surface] [Stage 3 – Bargaining]

Nettie was very upset but she decided to take Albert's advice.

- Why did I swim that way? I could have taken another path and this wouldn't have happened to me.

She swam and swam using all her strength until finally she gasped for fresh air at the surface.

[9. NINTH ILLUSTRATION – Surprised Gannet Barbara looking down at Nettie, sky with other birds in the distance and the open ocean, top view on entangled Nettie down there]

- Oh no! what happened Nettie? Are you ok?
- No, could you try to take it off me?

[10. TENTH ILLUSTRATION – Barbara trying to pull the net with her beak, no success]

So Barbara aimed down for Nettie with her full speed trying to take the net away. She tried and tried, flying up and down, diving deep and shallow, but she wasn't strong enough to pull the net out of Nettie.

- I'm so sorry Nettie, I'm too small. Maybe someone in the water could help you – said Barbara
Nettie just looked down with her big sad eyes, she took a deep breath and went for another dive.

[11. ELEVENTH ILLUSTRATION – Nettie diving deep, the water in the bottom of the page gets darker, the top of the page brings light and shows diving birds behind her]

[Stage 4 – Depression]

She struggled on without knowing when or if she ever feels better. She knew she may not survive this. She used to be so cheerful and careless, now it felt impossible to be ever happy again.

[12. TWELVETH ILLUSTRATION – Turtle Arnar – but we don't know yet it's him, a dark silhouette is approaching Nettie, it doesn't look like just a turtle cause he has a straw in his nose and some trash attached to it]

[Stage 5 – Acceptance]

Suddenly in the darkness of water she notices a weird looking shadow. She was feeling so heavy and moving so slowly, whatever it was she didn't care anymore. The shadow was getting closer and closer and eventually spoke:

- Hello! How are you? It looks like you've got into big trouble here. Are you in pain? – asked the shadow
- Yes it hurts so much. I don't know if I can carry it any more.
- But what's your choice? - asked the shadow and continued to slowly getting closer
- What's my choice? I don't want a life like that. I want to go back to how it was before.

[13. THIRTEENTH ILLUSTRATION – Zoom at turtle Arnar, he has a straw in his nose and some trash around it, lots of scars on his back, he's been through a lot.]

[Stage 5 – Acceptance]

- Life surprises us sometimes with things we can't control. It may seem like end of the world but you'll see it's not. Those things make us stronger. You just have to keep on swimming and have hope for the best. - said Turtle Arnar

and added - I wish you best Nettie. Look how far you've swam already, it will get better.

[14. FOURTEENTH ILLUSTRATION – Swimming Nettie through two book pages, landscape in the distance]

So Nettie continued her journey to the north. She was so determined to live and even though the net was causing her pain, she refused to give up. She kept on swimming staying close to the surface. Eventually she noticed a landscape in the distance – Iceland, finally.

She noticed she's getting lots of attention from passing boats so she decided stay at the surface and observe. One human was yelling a lot. She couldn't understand what is it about so she continued to swim being followed by the boat.

[15. FIFTEENTH ILLUSTRATION – Nettie under water, the boat and hands above the water]

- Joi, we need to turn the boat. We have to approach it from the other side. - said voice at the surface.

Suddenly Nettie was surrounded by boats and voices. Someone jumped into the water. She was very confused and tried to swim away but they were keep blocking her way. She felt lighter. She realised one of the humans cut a piece of the rope on her tail.

All of the sudden she felt free. She swam to the surface and heard cheering voices from the boats. Humans were happy.

[16. SIXTEENTH ILLUSTRATION – Free Nettie Jumping out of the water,]

- They helped me – she thought.

She realised she's finally free and she was so happy she jumped out of the water. It felt so great! She did that again and again and decided she will always come back to place that made her so happy.

[CLOSING ILLUSTRATION – FACTS ABOUT WHALES & OCEAN PROBLEMS]

Humpback whale – Humpback whales are mammals that live in the oceans all over the world. They can grow up to 17 meters and weight up to 40 tones.

Map – These whales are migratory species that spend summers in tropical waters where they breed and teach young whales how to sing and survive, and winters in cold waters of the north where they go to look for food.

Eating whale / whale with an open mouth – These are baleen whales, this means they don't have teeth, instead of teeth they have baleen plates that look a bit like a very big toothbrush in their mouth and it works as a filter system to separate food from water.

Krill & Grapefruit – Humpback whales feed on Plankton, Krill & Small fish. Due to size of their throat they cannot swallow thing that is bigger than a grapefruit.

Surface Blow – Whales are deep divers but they have lungs just like us and they have to come to the surface to breathe

Net – Fishing nets are one of the greatest dangers for whales. They can get cought in the net and get very hurt or even die. Lots of people around the world are trying to help solve that problem however whales can be very stressed when that happens. If you ever see a whale that is in trouble, don't try to help him by yourself, call the coast guards or whale friendly institution that will know how to help without stressing the animal more.

Turtle, Crab & Gannet – Whales are not the only ones in need of attention. Pollution in the seas has never been higher and lots of animals get in trouble because of that.