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Just So Stories

Rudyard Kipling



"I remember...all the days gone by.
And it was so—just so—a long time ago..."

原来如此

——讲给孩子们的故事

Rudyard Kipling (英) 著
方华文 译

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How the Whale Got His Throat



IN the sea, once upon a time, O my Best Beloved, there was a Whale, and he ate fishes. He ate the starfish and the garfish, and the crab and the dab, and the plaice and the dace, and the skate and his mate, and the mackerel and the pickereel, and the really truly twirly-whirly eel. All the fishes he could find in all the sea he ate with his mouth—so! Till at last there was only one small fish left in all the sea, and he was a small 'Stute Fish, and he swam a little behind the Whale's right ear, so as to be out of harm's way. Then the Whale stood up on his tail and said, "I'm hungry." And the small 'Stute Fish said in a small 'stute voice, "Noble and generous Cetacean, have you ever tasted Man?"

"No," said the Whale. "What is it like?"

"Nice," said the small 'Stute Fish. "Nice but nubbly."

"Then fetch me some," said the Whale, and he made the sea froth up with his tail.

"One at a time is enough," said the 'Stute Fish. "If you swim to latitude Fifty North, longitude Forty West (that is

magic), you will find, sitting *on* a raft, *in* the middle of the sea, with nothing on but a pair of blue canvas breeches, a pair of suspenders (you must *not* forget the suspenders, Best Beloved), and a jackknife, one shipwrecked Mariner, who, it is only fair to tell you, is a man of infinite-resource-and-sagacity.”

So the Whale swam and swam to latitude Fifty North, longitude Forty West, as fast as he could swim, and *on* a raft, *in* the middle of the sea, *with* nothing to wear except a pair of blue canvas breeches, a pair of suspenders (you must particularly remember the suspenders, Best Beloved), *and* a jackknife, he found one single, solitary shipwrecked Mariner, trailing his toes in the water. (He had his mummy’s leave to paddle, or else he would never have done it, because he was a man of infinite-resource-and-sagacity.)

Then the Whale opened his mouth back and back and back till it nearly touched his tail, and he swallowed the shipwrecked Mariner, and the raft he was sitting on, and his blue canvas breeches, and the suspenders (which you *must* not forget), *and* the jackknife—He swallowed them all down into his warm, dark, inside cupboards, and then he smacked his lips—so, and turned round three times on his tail.

But as soon as the Mariner, who was a man of infinite-resource-and-sagacity, found himself truly inside the Whale’s warm, dark, inside cupboards, he stumped and he jumped and he thumped and he bumped, and he pranced and he danced, and he banged and he clanged, and he hit and he bit, and he



THIS is the picture of the Whale swallowing the Mariner with his infinite-resource-and-sagacity, and the raft and the jackknife and his suspenders, which you must not forget. The buttony-things are the Mariner's suspenders, and you can see the knife close by them. He is sitting on the raft, but it has tilted up sideways, so you don't see much of it. The whity thing by the Mariner's left hand is a piece of wood that he was trying to row the raft with when the Whale came along. The piece of wood is called the jaws-of-a-gaff. The Mariner left it outside when he went in. The Whale's name was Smiler, and the Mariner was called Mr Henry Albert Bivvens, a.b. The little 'Stute Fish is hiding under the Whale's tummy, or else I would have drawn him. The reason that the sea looks so ooshy-skooshy is because the Whale is sucking it all into his mouth so as to suck in Mr. Henry Albert Bivvens and the raft and the jackknife and the suspenders. You must never forget the suspenders.

这是鲸鱼吞食水手（一个非常省智谋的聪明人）的画面，他还吞食了水手的木筏、大折刀以及背带（千万不要忘了背带）。画上那些省钮扣的玩意儿就是水手的背带，紧挨着背带你可以看见大折刀。水手坐在木筏上，但木筏向旁边倾斜，所以你看不清楚。水手左侧那个白色的东西是一根木条，鲸鱼来之前水手正试图用它划木筏。这根木条即所谓的桅杆头，水手进鱼腹前把它丢在了外边。鲸鱼名叫“笑面鲸”，水手名叫亨利·艾伯特·比文斯先生。小鬼头鱼藏在鲸鱼的肚皮下，不然我就把他画出来了。海水之所以显得波涛翻滚，是因为鲸鱼在吞咽亨利·艾伯特·比文斯先生、木筏、大折刀以及背带时（请你千万不要忘了背带），连海水也吸进了口中。

leaped and he creeped, and he prowled and he howled, and he hopped and he dropped, and he cried and he sighed, and he crawled and he bawled, and he stepped and he lepped, and he danced hornpipes where he shouldn't, and the Whale felt most unhappy indeed. (*Have you forgotten the suspenders?*)

So he said to the 'Stute Fish, "This man is very nubbly, and besides he is making me hiccough. What shall I do?"

"Tell him to come out," said the 'Stute Fish.

So the Whale called down his own throat to the shipwrecked Mariner, "Come out and behave yourself. I've got the hiccoughs."

"Nay, nay!" said the Mariner. "Not so, but far otherwise. Take me to my natal-shore and the white-cliffs-of-Albion¹, and I'll think about it." And he began to dance more than ever.

"You had better take him home," said the 'Stute Fish to the Whale. "I ought to have warned you that he is a man of infinite-resource-and-sagacity."

So the Whale swam and swam and swam, with both flippers and his tail, as hard as he could for the hiccoughs; and at last he saw the Mariner's natal-shore and the white-cliffs-of-Albion, and he rushed half-way up the beach, and opened his mouth wide and wide and wide, and said, "Change here for Winchester, Ashuelot, Nashua, Keene, and stations on the *Fitchburg Road*;" and just as he said "Fitch" the Mariner walked

1. Albion: <诗>阿尔比恩, 指英格兰或不列颠, 源出希腊人和罗马人对该地的称呼。

out of his mouth. But while the Whale had been swimming, the Mariner, who was indeed a person of infinite-resource-and-sagacity, had taken his jackknife and cut up the raft into a little square grating all running criss-cross, and he had tied it firm with his suspenders (*now*, you know why you were not to forget the suspenders!), and he dragged that grating good and tight into the Whale's throat, and there it stuck! Then he recited the following *Sloka*, which, as you have not heard it, I will now proceed to relate—

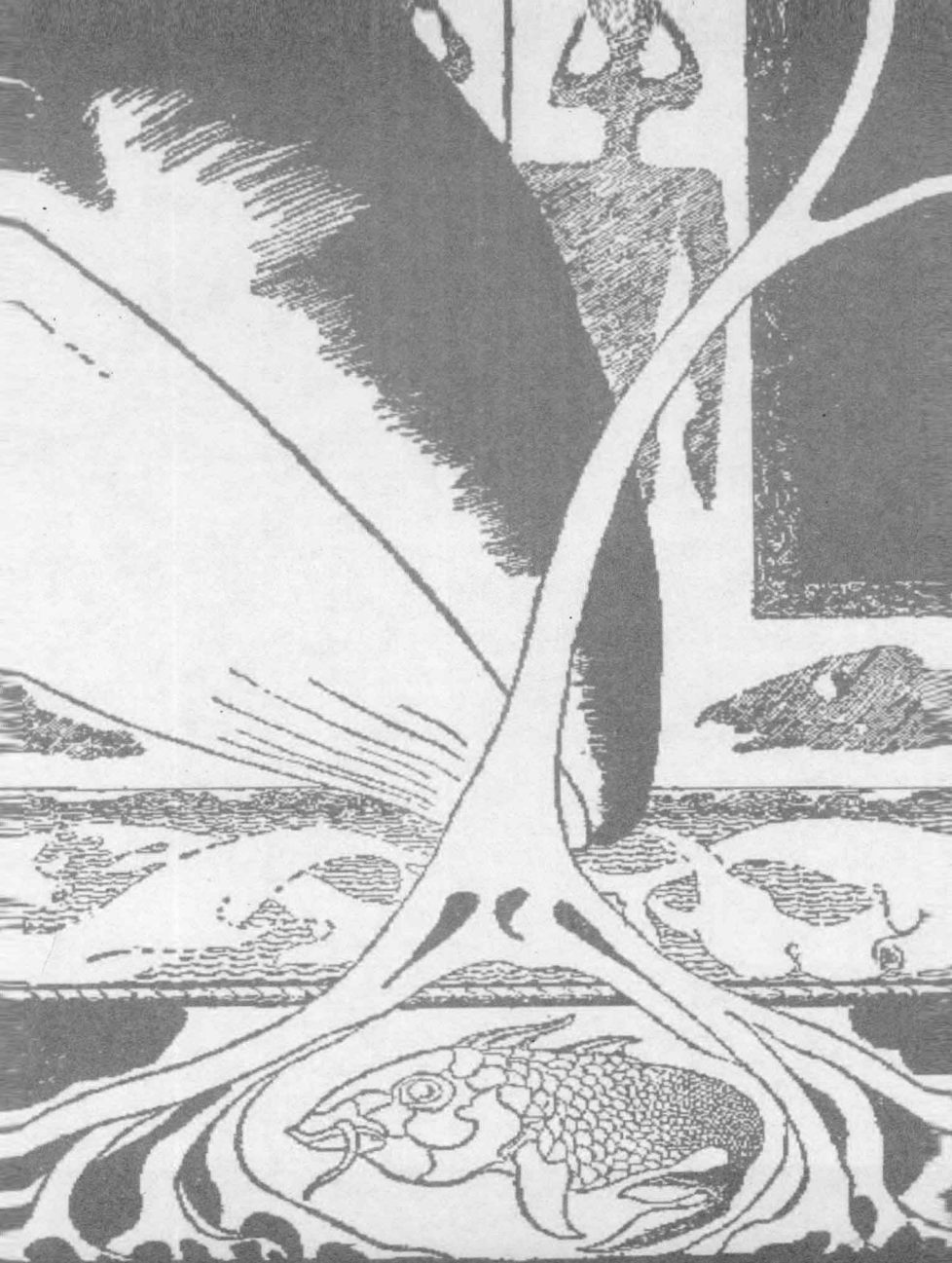
By means of a grating

I have stopped your ating.

For the Mariner he was also an Hi-ber-ni-an. And he stepped out on the shingle, and went home to his Mother, who had given him leave to trail his toes in the water; and he married and lived happily ever afterward. So did the Whale. But from that day on, the grating in his throat, which he could neither cough up nor swallow down, prevented him eating anything except very, very small fish; and that is the reason why whales nowadays never eat men or boys or little girls.

The small 'Stute Fish went and hid himself in the mud under the Doorsills of the Equator. He was afraid that the Whale might be angry with him.

The Sailor took the jackknife home. He was wearing the blue canvas breeches when he walked out on the shingle. The suspenders were left behind, you see, to tie the grating with; and that is the end of *that* tale.



*When the cabin port-holes are dark and green
Because of the seas outside;
When the ship goes wop (with a wiggle between)
And the steward falls into the soup-tureen,
And the trunks begin to slide;
When Nursey lies on the floor in a heap,
And Mummy tells you to let her sleep,
And you aren't waked or washed or dressed,
Why, then you will know (if you haven't guessed)
You're "Fifty North and Forty West!"*

鲸鱼为什么长喉咙

在很久以前，我亲爱的，大海里有一条鲸鱼。他以鱼类为食，吃海星、颌针鱼、螃蟹、比目鱼、鲈、雅罗鱼，也吃雄鳕和雌鳕鱼，还吃鲑鱼、小狗鱼以及身子扭来扭去的鳗鲡。凡是在大海里能找到的鱼，他全都张口吃掉。哎呀呀！最后，茫茫的大海里只剩下一条小鱼了，那就是小鬼头鱼。他跟在鲸鱼的右耳后游动，这样可以不受到伤害。鲸鱼挺挺尾巴直立起来说：“我的肚子饿。”小鬼头鱼用鬼精灵般的声音小声说道：“高贵、大度的鲸鱼，您尝过人肉的滋味吗？”

“没有。”鲸鱼说。“人肉的滋味怎么样？”

“味道很好。”小鬼头鱼说。“味道很好，就是不太筋道。”

“那你就给我弄几个人来。”鲸鱼说着，用尾巴将海水搅得波浪翻滚。

“一次吃一个人就够了。”小鬼头鱼说。“如果您游到北纬50度、西经40度的地方（那就是奇迹了），您会看见在大海中央有一个遇到海难的水手坐在木筏上，他没穿别的衣服，只穿了一条蓝色的粗帆布裤子，配着两根背带（我亲爱的，千万不要忘了这背带），身边还有一把大折刀。公正平说，他是一个非常有

智谋的聪明人。”

鲸鱼听后就游啊游，向北纬50度、西经40度的地方游去。他游得飞快，果真在大海中央看见一个遇到海难的水手。水手孤零零地坐在木筏上，正把脚放在水里划水（他是得到了妈妈的准许才划水的，否则他绝不会这样做，因为他是个非常有智谋的聪明人）。他没穿别的衣服，只穿了一条蓝色的粗帆布裤子，配着两根背带（我亲爱的，你尤其要记住这背带），身边还有一把大折刀。

鲸鱼张开大口，张啊张啊，都快把嘴咧到尾巴那儿了。他一口便吞下了那个遇到海难的水手，吞下了他乘的木筏，吞下了他的蓝色粗帆布裤子、背带（千万别忘了这背带）以及大折刀，连人带物一起咽进了自己体内那暖乎乎、黑黢黢的“食橱”里，然后咂咂嘴，美滋滋的，直立着尾巴转了三圈。

可是，那位水手是非常有智谋的聪明人，一置身于鲸鱼体内那暖乎乎、黑黢黢的“食橱”里，他便又蹦又跳、又打又闹；他前后翻腾、手足并舞，乒乒乓乓地胡敲乱打，又啃又咬，忽而跳跃忽而攀爬，忽而高高跃起忽而重重落下；他又唱又喊，大步流星，还不合适宜地跳起了号角舞。鲸鱼感到难受极了。（你忘记那副背带了吗？）

于是鲸鱼对小鬼头说：“这个人太筋道的了，还弄得我打嗝。怎么办呢？”

“让他出来！”小鬼头说。

鲸鱼喊开了，声音顺着喉管传向那位遇到海难的水手：“你

出来，懂点儿礼貌吧。我都打嗝了。”

“不行，不行！”水手说道。“我不出去，坚决不出去。你把我送回故乡的海岸边，送回英格兰白色的峭壁前，我就考虑你的请求。”说完，他跳腾得更厉害了。

“您最好送他回家。”小鬼头对鲸鱼说。“我真该提前告诉您：他是个非常有智谋的聪明人。”

鲸鱼害怕打嗝，于是摆动着鳍和尾巴拼命地游了起来，游啊游啊，最后终于看见了水手故乡的海岸以及英格兰的白色峭壁。他几乎一下子冲上了海滩，把嘴张得大大的，说：“前往温切斯特、亚舒伊洛特、纳舒厄、基恩以及菲奇堡线路的车站，在这儿换乘。”“菲奇”二字刚一出口，水手就从鲸鱼的嘴里走了出来。他确实是个非常有智谋的聪明人，他已经在鲸鱼腹内用大折刀把木筏砍开，制成了一个纵横交错的方型笼子。他用背带将笼子扎牢（现在你知道为什么让你别忘了背带吧！），拖进鲸鱼的喉管里，把它严严实实地卡在那个地方！随即，他念了一句顺口溜儿。你没有听说过，我这就给你念念：

借助一块笼子，

让你无法贪吃。

原来水手还是个爱尔兰人。他一步跨上砂石海滩，回家见妈妈去了（就是他的妈妈准许他用脚划水的）。后来，他结了婚，过上了幸福的生活。鲸鱼的日子也很幸福。不过，从那

一天开始，他喉咙里有了个方型的篦子，既咳不出来也咽不下去，使得他无法进食，只能吃非常非常小的鱼。所以，现在的鲸鱼就再也不能吃人了，也吃不了小男孩儿和小女孩儿们。

小鬼头鱼跑去藏在赤道门槛下的淤泥里，他害怕鲸鱼生他的气。

水手把大折刀带回了家。他走上岸时，身上穿着蓝色的粗帆布裤子；他的背带没带走，留下来捆篦子用了。这个故事到此就结束了。

舱外海水波涛涌，
舷窗幽暗泛绿光；
船儿震颤摇又摆，
水手掉在汤镬中，
箱子全都滑起来。
保姆在地上蜷一团，
妈妈叫你催她睡，
可你怎么也醒不来，
脸未洗、衣未穿；
此时你应该能猜到：
你已在——
“奇迹出现的地方”！