

FADE IN:

1. FLICKERING HOME MOVIES 1

8mm images of a BEAUTIFUL WOMAN, 30, smiling in the sun, waving off the camera, not wanting to be photographed. A second shot: The same woman holds her newborn BABY GIRL. Her husband (JACK) enters, gives a kiss to his two girls. Now a third shot shows the WOMAN at the helm of a MOTORBOAT bouncing across the waves.

Over these, we hear the voice of NIM, an eleven year old girl.

NIM'S VOICE

See, there are stories... then  
there's real life. I guess she's  
really more a story to me now.

Now the woman on the water TURNS INTO AN ILLUSTRATION: A hand-drawn motorboat painting a wake across a two-dimensional ocean.

NIM'S VOICE

But she's this really amazing  
story...

2. NOW A POP-UP WHALE RISES BESIDE THE ILLUSTRATED WOMAN 2

She smiles at the GREAT BLUE WHALE cresting along beside her.

NIM'S VOICE

"The Oceanographer and the Blue  
Whale."

3. EXT. SOUTH PACIFIC - SUNSET 3

Silhouetted by red sunset -- like a storybook illustration come to life -- the GREAT BLUE WHALE, largest mammal on earth, yawns its mouth open for the beautiful OCEANOGRAPHER to peer inside.

NIM'S VOICE

All my mother wanted to know is  
"What was in the Blue Whale's  
stomach?" It's a perfectly reasonable question actually.  
Especially if you're, you know, an oceanographer.

3A A PAPER CUT-OUT OF NIM'S MOTHER -- BACKLIT BY THE RED SUN 3A

She peers curiously into the whale's gaping mouth. In the background behind her, a DARK SHADOW PASSES. She turns and:

4 A GIANT PIRATE SHIP (A MAGNIFICENT FEAT OF PAPER ENGINEERING) 4  
blocks out the sun, silhouetted against deep red paper sky. Darkness bears down on the Oceanographer and the Blue Whale.