

Whale Song

A short play
by Robert Salisbury

CAST

PROF. Professor Ian McKeowan's – marine biologist
TRILLIAN Miss Trillian Hunt. Marine Biologist from San Diego.

SETTING

South Pole At South Pole.
Kujira Aboard the "Kujira". Below deck and on deck.

She planned to learn the whale song, and translate it as one does a second language. I wasn't used to being around a woman 24 hours a day.

Fx **ABOARD DAI KUJIRA. ON DECK. CALM SEA. SPLOSHING OF WATER.**
TRILLIAN Professor! Come listen the mother is talking with her calf. The infants are gurgling and the Mother replies with a kind of giant raspberry....Here try the headset...
Fx **WHALE SOUNDS..**

----- **END OF SCENE** -----

Scene # 4

STUDIO

PROFESSOR *Day 12. The number of whales beaching themselves had reached epidemic proportions. The biologists were sticking to their theory that whales panic in shallow water and ground themselves. If only they knew....*
It was bad day all round. Killer whales appeared. Threatening our infant whales...

DAYTIME OPEN SEA ON DECK OF KUJIRA.

Fx **OCEAN SEA IN BACKGROUND. BOAT RIGGING.**
TRILLIAN They've gone deep!
PROFESSOR Damn it! I'll get the gun.
TRILLIAN No Professor!
PROFESSOR But they'll kill the infants.
TRILLIAN We said we wouldn't interfere.
PROFESSOR Those bloody Orcas!
Fx **LOUD SPLASHING AS WHALES BREACHES + LOUD WHALE SOUND.**
TRILLIAN She's not going to make it.
Fx **COCKING OF RIFLE**
PROFESSOR We need to protect our pod.
TRILLIAN Don't Professor!
Fx **RIFLE SHOTS x 3**

----- **END OF SCENE** -----

SCENE #8

STUDIO

PROFESSOR *Day 14 Location: Antofagasta, the deepest part of the Peru-Chile Underwater Trench. A hot spot for whale beachings. 14 in the past week. There appears to be a link between deep water and the location of whale beachings. Things with Trillian weren't so good. After the Killer Whales had taken one of the young, her mood changed. We hadn't spoken for 48 hours*

Fx OCEAN SEA. BOAT RIGGING. LIGHT WIND. ON DECK OF KUJIRA.

TRILLIAN Don't you dare touch it.
PROFESSOR Its only a spoon!
PROFESSOR For Heavens sake! TRILLIAN Don't you dare touch it!
Why do you have to make such a Its my spoon! I asked you
fuss over something so trivial! Not to touch it. Its Mine!
....

TRILLIAN Are you going to tell me this theory of yours or not!
PROFESSOR When I have proof.
TRILLIAN Why am I on this mission if you won't let me help you?
PROFESSOR You'll know soon enough.
TRILLIAN Damm you!

Fx DOOR SLAMS. LEAVING FLYBRIDGE QUIET AGAIN. .

PROFESSOR *I'm was using sonar to measure the density of krill at the drop off. If my theory was right, the krill had died off, due to a rise in sea temperature. A major threat to the Whales that feed on them. I decided it was time to tell her...*

----- **END OF SCENE** -----

SCENE #6

NIGHTITME BELOW DECK ON BOAT.

Fx OCEAN SEA IN BACKGROUND. JAZZ MUSIC ON CD. BOAT. TWO EATING AND DRINKING.

PROFESSOR I don't think I've ever enjoyed pasta so much.
TRILLIAN Another wine Professor?
PROFESSOR Oh come on, Trillian, call me Ian.
TRILLIAN How come you never married?
PROFESSOR I guess when you are passionate about something... little else seems important... And you? You know someone special?
TRILLIAN Maybe.... So.. Ian. Enlighten me....
PROFESSOR Rising sea temperature has disturbed the balance of life at the drop off. The whales know this, as they feed there. If my findings are true. There is a complete collapse of marine life below a certain depth.
TRILLIAN What do you mean complete?
PROFESSOR Its a chain reaction. The ocean is dying from the bottom up.
TRILLIAN That's what they are trying to tell us?
PROFESSOR They giving their lives to let someone know...
TRILLIAN You can't be serious?

Fx STUDIO

PROFESSOR *I knew then, what the whale on the beach had been trying to tell me...*

why she'd given her life..... And if my life was to mean anything, I knew what I had to do...

----- END OF SCENE -----

SCENE# 10

ON DECK OF BOAT

Fx MUSIC. SOUND OF OCEAN + BOAT.

PROFESSOR She's on full speed. Maintain a steady course back to land.

TRILLIAN Don't do this..

PROFESSOR Let me kiss you goodbye.

Fx KISSING.

TRILLIAN Professor this is mad.

PROFESSOR I must.

TRILLIAN Professor!

PROFESSOR Goodbye Trillian!

TRILLIAN Ian don't!

Fx LOUD SPLASH

TRILLIAN Professor.... I'm coming with you! PROFESSSSOOOORRRR!!

Fx LOUD SPLASH

Fx SOUND OF MUSIC AND BOAT CHUGGING INTO DISTANCE.

----- END OF SCENE -----