

EYE OF THE WHALE
by
Douglas Carlton Abrams
*Author of **The Lost Diary of Don Juan***

Praise for *The Lost Diary of Don Juan*...

“So rich, so detailed, so colorful, *The Lost Diary of Don Juan* is a magic carpet of a book, an adventure that takes you to a time and place blazing with excitement and discovery. Doug Abrams writes with such polish, immediacy, and authority, you pause to admire his mastery of narrative.”

-- Frank McCourt, Pulitzer prize-winning author of *Angela's Ashes*

“With its lush, cinematic sweep of swashbuckling adventure, social intrigue and probing psychological insight, this fiery love story should spark global interest.”

--*Kirkus Reviews*

“A rollicking adventure-love story.”

--*The Boston Globe*

For years, bestselling author Doug Abrams enjoyed a successful career in publishing as an editor, publisher, and coauthor of non-fiction books. Then in 2007, he delivered his debut novel titled *The Lost Diary of Don Juan*, a publishing phenomenon that generated international buzz, sold in thirty foreign countries, and garnered raves from fans and critics alike.

In his second novel, Abrams serves up a captivating story that's more than eminently entertaining; it's illuminating. In **EYE OF THE WHALE: A Novel (Atria Books; August 2009; Price: \$25.95; ISBN: 978-1-4165-3254-5)**, Abrams spins a compelling contemporary tale as he addresses one of the most important issues of our time: protecting the planet from the abuses of man.

Informed by the real-life research of leading scientists, **EYE OF THE WHALE** introduces Elizabeth McKay, a dedicated marine biologist and Ph.D. candidate whose decade-long study of humpback whales has all but consumed her. Convinced that the songs of the humpback whales are a sophisticated form of communication, she has

strained her relationships with her husband and her doctoral committee in her relentless pursuit of proof.

Stubbornly single-minded, she spends countless hours in the whales' Caribbean habitat trying to confirm the link between the unprecedented new singing patterns she has identified and her communication theory, betting that it could be the breakthrough she needs for her doctoral dissertation. But Elizabeth's unsympathetic advisor is less than encouraging, and her husband has run out of patience, claiming that her misguided priorities leave no room for him or a family.

When the committee pressures Elizabeth to finish her dissertation or risk being dismissed, she returns to her San Francisco Bay area home and her shambles of a marriage. But in the frantic days spent trying to finish her thesis, she is stunned to hear the same whale song she heard in the Caribbean coming from a misdirected humpback that has entered the bay and is working its way up the Sacramento River.

Elizabeth is certain that this particular whale is trying to send a message, but unless she can interpret and link the aberrant sounds to her theory, she won't be able to save the whale, her shaky marriage, or her career. The distressed whale is an instant media sensation that captures the world's imagination, and Elizabeth is soon working round the clock with authorities on a rescue plan. But when she learns that someone is trying to sabotage her efforts at every turn, the situation turns deadly.

Who is trying to bury her research and why? What is causing the epic shift in the species' song patterns? What would cause the catastrophic birth defects cropping up in whale calves, and are they related to the whale's new song? As she zeroes in on answers, Elizabeth must ultimately decide if saving the whale—and protecting her groundbreaking data—is worth risking her own life.

Meticulously researched and cleverly plotted, **EYE OF THE WHALE** takes readers into the mysterious world of humpback whales and great white sharks, dispelling myths and addressing profound moral issues in the process. Along the way, it probes the fragile harmony between humans and animals and the critical importance of protecting endangered species—particularly since *we* could be next to land on the endangered list.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Douglas Carlton Abrams is a novelist whose work has been translated into thirty languages. He is also the coauthor of a number of non-fiction books, including books written with Desmond Tutu. He lives in Santa Cruz, California, with his wife and three children.