

Ashley Anderson

Public Relations

www.ashleyandersonpr.com

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Media Contact: Ashley Anderson
805-964-9505 ashley@ashleyandersonpr.com

Pollution is the New Harpoon: but Pollution Doesn't Just Kill Whales

Bestselling Author Launches Eco-Thriller *Eye of the Whale* at 'Watching Whales Saving Whales' Symposium

Best-selling author Douglas Carlton Abrams will speak about his new eco-thriller *Eye of the Whale* at the Pacific Whale Foundation symposium "Watching Whales Saving Whales." from 2:30 – 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 13 at the Westin Maui Resort and Spa in Kaanapali Beach, Maui. The day-long event, which features some of the world's leading whale experts, researchers and authors, is free and open to the public. This will be the first ever symposium in the 30 year history of Festival of the Whale which last year drew 15,000 locals and visitors.

In his talk at the historic center of whaling, Abrams will show how pollution is the new harpoon, but this deadly hazard doesn't just kill whales. He will call attention to the important fact that whales are not yet saved and face a growing range of ecological dangers that threaten all ocean animals and even humans.

Abrams's novel is a fact-based thriller, and the author worked with many of the world's leading marine biologists and eco-toxicologists. He will be presenting some shockingly true facts on which it is based and the unusual connections between them:

- *Childhood cancer is up by 26 percent, making cancer the greatest threat to children*
- *1 in 3 women will develop cancer. 1 in 2 men will develop cancer.*
- *Male fish across the country are developing eggs.*
- *Whales are washing up dead and their bodies are so contaminated that they must be treated like toxic waste.*

What is happening to us? What is happening to our world? Abrams will address these questions and reveal the journey that took him around the world—recording whale behavior and song, meeting modern day whalers, meeting leading eco-toxicologists—as he was researching his novel. He will also share some of the breakthroughs in understanding whale communication that were actually discovered by scientists as he was writing.

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Eye of the Whale is a captivating ecological thriller about Elizabeth McKay, a marine biologist who risks everything to rescue a trapped whale and discover the meaning of its mysterious song. As nefarious forces seek to stop her, she discovers the true impact of toxins and the danger they pose to ourselves, our children, and the planet as a whole. As her research and its implications for human survival capture the media's interest and the world's imagination, Elizabeth is forced to decide if her discoveries are worth risking her marriage, her career, and possibly her life.

Dr. Kristen Jule, Director of Research at the Pacific Whale Foundation, says "We are excited to have Doug Abrams speak at the Watching Whales, Saving Whales Symposium. His book provides excellent exposure for awareness of the conservation issues surrounding humpback whales. Doug manages to elegantly integrate fictional storytelling and scientific knowledge in such a way that highlights the plight of marine mammals."

Douglas Carlton Abrams is the nationally bestselling author of *The Lost Diary of Don Juan*, which has been published in thirty languages. He writes fact-based fiction and did extensive research for his new novel working with scientists, recording humpback whales, meeting present-day whalers, and cage-diving with great white sharks. Previously an editor at the University of California Press and HarperCollins, he is the cofounder of Idea Architects, a book and media development agency working with visionary authors.

The Pacific Whale Foundation Symposium "Watching Whales Saving Whales" takes place Saturday, February 13 at the Westin Maui Resort and Spa in Kaanapali Beach, Maui. Parking will be available at the Whaler's Village pay-as-you-park lot. The event is free and open to the public. The day of learning about whales and conservation begins at 8:30 a.m. and continues into the evening, with a Whale Share-athon from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. during which the public is invited to share photos, video, music, art, poetry or stories about whales and whale watching. There will also be a free environmental film festival from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. **For more information visit www.mauiwhalefestival.org or call (808) 249-8811.**

Pacific Whale Foundation promotes appreciation, understanding and protection of whales, dolphins, coral reefs and our planet's oceans. They accomplish this by educating the public -- from a scientific perspective -- about the marine environment. They support and conduct responsible marine research and address marine conservation issues in Hawaii and the Pacific. Through educational eco-tours, they model and promote sound ecotourism practices and responsible wildlife watching

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Accolades for *Eye of the Whale* (Atria Books /Simon & Schuster 2009) by Douglas Carlton Abrams

"Eye of the Whale is a page-turning blend of great storytelling, characters you'll quickly care a great deal about (some of which are human), and the latest insights of the world's leading environmental scientists--from the complex behaviors of whales, to the chemical pollution that threatens our entire biosphere, from sea life to breast cells. You'll race to the end of Doug Abrams' tense, heart-rending, fast-paced mystery. When you finally put his novel down, what you'll pick up, I predict, is fresh resolve for the fight to save planet Earth." **Ken Cook, President of the Environmental Working Group**

"*Eye of The Whale* is truly "a whale of a story," good for all ages. While the novel maintains scientific accuracy throughout, it is fast-paced fiction and full of suspense. It is destined to reach vast audiences who will begin to learn about the other ED, the one that corporations have kept a secret, endocrine disruption. It is the underlying cause of the disorders that have reached pandemic proportion in the industrialized world. Do you know someone with diabetes, ADHD, autism, fertility problems, thyroid problems, testicular, breast or prostate cancer? Let them read this book." **Theo Colborn, author of *Our Stolen Future***

"Douglas Carlton Abrams is the Herman Melville of environmental fiction."
Devra Davis, Ph.D., author of *When Smoke Ran Like Water and The Secret War Against Cancer*