

Valley Of The Giants "Whaling Tale"

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The story is about a rock penguin
It's a small penguin, not a king penguin
You can see thousands of them breeding
When the warm season starts

And they only lay one egg at a time
And if you take one away they'll lay another egg but no
more
But I want to tell this story really about
One incident, one day it was a gray misty day

With the wind blowing hard and there was a heavy
smell running
And a whale factory was pitching and yawing
Not really a very good day to pick up the whales
Over the stern of the factory ship

There were one or two dead whales at the stern of the
vessel
And the whale catchers were coming in with their
whales
And in the distance you could see the icebergs
Quite a number of them

And the men were trying to get ready
To pull the whales over the stern of the vessel
There was a pack of killer whales around
Which came tearing towards the factory ship
And they tore chunks out of the whales

And there were a number of men at the stern of the
vessel
With guns shooting at the killer whales
The minute they hit a killer whale the rest of the pack
went after him
And tore him to pieces

But let's get back to the story of the penguin
I'd say there were about 6 or 7 whales
Some of them blue, some of them fin at the stern of the
vessel
And there was that small rock penguin sitting on top of

the whale back

And as we were pulling up the whales one after another
Over the stern of the vessel
It was rather difficult with the heavy swell running

The penguin hopped from one whale to another
The killer whales were all around the dead whales
They were tearing into them and the sea was red with
blood

And by that time there was a number of men
From the whale factory coming astern and watching
The penguin at the back of the whale

And the men where shooting as fast as they could
To stop the killer whale from getting, getting the
penguin
Which was sitting or trying to hold on to the back of the
whale
But as the whale was pulled up they'd shoot

It was difficult for the winchman to regulate
And he had to watch very carefully not to, with the swell
of the vessel
With the swell of the sea running and the vessel
moving
To stop the penguin from slipping off its back

The chute was quite steep, it was about I would say, 30
degrees
And the little penguin climbed close to the tail of the
whale
From which the whale was pulled up the chute
And the men were all standing around and watching
And hoping that that penguin would finally get up, get
up on deck

It took a long time to lift that last whale up
If there was a swell the winchman up on top had to
watch
And be as careful as possible not to jerk and increase
the movement
So that the little penguin could stay on top

We got him to the stern of the chute
At the beginning of the chute and he got saved
We kept on, we kept on slowly pulling

And as we pulled the little penguin slowly but surely
Went along the back of the whale from the tail

Of from the tail to the middle of
To the middle of the back

But at that time the sea was running heavy
And the movement at the stern was rather erratic
Finally when we got him up about three quarters of the
way
I don't think there was a man working on the stern of
the factory

They were all watching and hoping too
That the little penguin would get up on top
As the killer whales were just waiting down below and
just watching
And the men were shooting and trying to kill these
killer whales
And therefore they were afraid
That the little penguin might slip in the water

Finally when we got it really all the way up
Everybody started to breathe a sigh of relief
But there was a heavy, heavy swell which came under
the factory
And rolled the whale on the side and the little penguin
slipped off
And as it went down the chute the killer whales got it

Most of the men were not happy that day
There were also there's millions of penguins
That was one of the sights which they did not care to
see again
But that's the way in Antarctic, there's no give and take
It's a hard, hard place to be in but, c'est la vie

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