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opening extract from

The Snail and the Whale

written by

Julia Donaldson

published by

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This is a tale of a tiny snail

And a great big, grey-blue humpback whale.



This is a rock as black as soot,

And this is a snail with an itchy foot.



The sea snail slithered all over the rock

And gazed at the sea and the ships in the dock.

And as she gazed she sniffed and sighed.

"The sea is deep and the world is wide!

How I long to sail!"

Said the tiny snail.



These are the other snails in the flock,
Who all stuck tight to the smooth black rock
And said to the snail with the itchy foot,
"Be quiet! Don't wriggle! Sit still! Stay put!"
But the tiny sea snail sighed and sniffed,
Then cried, "I've got it! I'll hitch a lift!"



This is the trail
Of the tiny snail,
A silvery trail that looped and curled
And said . . .

