

# LITTLE GESTALTEN

SPRING 2020

## The World of Whales

Background Q&A with the author Darcy Dobell **to use for press**

**Question by Little Gestalten:**

Hello Darcy,

**you are publishing a picture book for the first time at Little Gestalten next year on the 28th of January, 2020, in Europe (which includes the United Kingdom) and on the 14th of April, 2020, internationally (which includes the United States).**

**We would like to provide the press with some background material about *The World of Whales* and would therefore like to ask you if you could to tell us a little bit more about the history of the book and how you came up with the idea for the illustrations for it?**

Answer by Darcy Dobell, author of *The World of Whales*:

My fascination with the sea dates from the summer I was ten, when my family moved from Paris to BC. For the first few months we lived with my grandparents in a small town on the south coast of Vancouver Island, and I spent that summer poking about in tide pools with a bucket in one hand and a field guide (Gloria Snively's *Exploring the Seashore*) in the other. As I grew up I studied science, and especially biology, and my work has always been connected to the natural world. About 20 years ago I started focusing my work on conservation and sustainability, and for the past 15 years I have been working in the fields of marine planning, conservation, and stewardship. I enjoy writing about science and nature, as a way to celebrate this amazing planet.

A good part of the first draft of this book was written while I was visiting a friend (Janie Wray) who, in partnership with the Gitga' at First Nation, runs a whale research station on an island in a remote location of the northern BC coast. In the course of a single morning we might see Fin whales, Humpback whales, Orcas, and Dall's porpoises. And we could listen to their calls through their hydrophone network.

It's an area of the coast that researchers think might be a place where Humpback whales practice their songs before they migrate to their breeding grounds (here's an article I wrote about that: <https://www.hakaimagazine.com/article-short/caamano-sound-whale-music/>); and yet it is also threatened by development. All very good inspiration for writing about the beauty and vulnerability of whales.

**Little Gestalten: Thank you very much for responding to our question Darcy and we wish you a lot of success with the book!**

**Short Biography of Darcy Dobell**

Wildlife lover DARCY DOBELL is the author of many scientific textbooks and articles aimed at younger readers, and advises organizations on how to protect the oceans.

This interview may be used by press in conjunction with book reviews or features about Becky Thorns and the author of the book, Darcy Dobell.