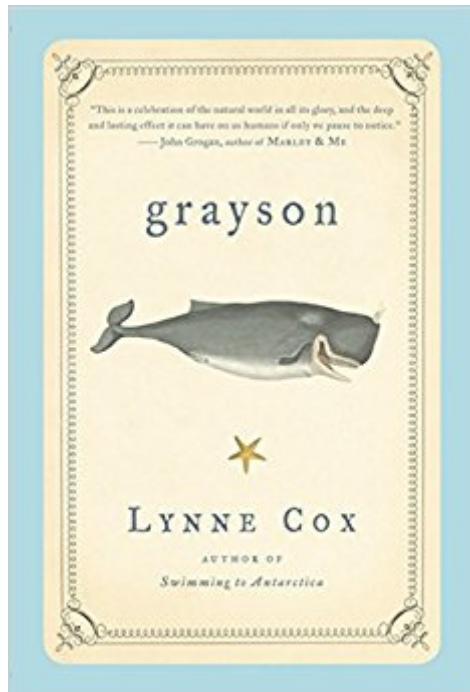


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# Grayson



## **Synopsis**

The true story of a miraculous encounter between a teenaged girl and a baby whale off the coast of California. It was the dark of early morning; seventeen-year-old Lynne Cox was swimming her last half mile back to the pier after a long workout when she became aware that something was swimming with her. The ocean was charged with energy as if a squall was moving in; whatever it was felt large enough to be a white shark coursing beneath her body. In fact, it was a baby gray whale. Lynne quickly realized that if she swam back to the pier, the young calf would follow her to shore and die from collapsed lungs. On the other hand, if Lynne didn't find the mother whale, the baby would suffer from dehydration and starve to death. Something so enormous—the mother whale would be at least fifty feet long—suddenly seemed very small in the vast Pacific Ocean. This is the story—part mystery, part magical tale—of what happened.

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 153 pages

Publisher: Harvest Books (February 4, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0156034670

ISBN-13: 978-0156034678

Product Dimensions: 5.3 x 0.5 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 144 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #125,916 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #18 in Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Exercise & Fitness > Swimming #55 in Books > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Animals > Marine Life #173 in Books > Science & Math > Nature & Ecology > Oceans & Seas

## **Customer Reviews**

On a clear California morning when Cox (Swimming to Antarctica) was 17 years old, she had an unusual experience that stayed with her for 30 years, creating a spiritual foundation for her personal and professional success. In this slim and crisp memoir, Cox details a morning swim off the coast of California that took an unexpected turn: returning to shore, she discovered that she was being followed by a baby gray whale that had been separated from its mother. As Cox developed a rapport with the whale, she took on the responsibility of keeping it at sea until it was reunited with its

mother. Cox expertly weaves fine details together, from the whale's mushroomlike skin to how other fish react to such a large creature. At times Cox's prose is uneven, alternating from emotional to factual, but her pure joy at connecting with Grayson (her name for the baby whale) overrides any technical inconsistencies. The combination of retelling her once-in-a-lifetime experience with her observations on life ("If I try, if I believe, if I work toward something... the impossible isn't impossible at all") will have timeless appeal for all ages. (Aug.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Adult/High School  
In a simple but suspenseful narrative, the author recounts her mystical encounter with a baby whale and his mother on a March morning 30 years ago. Then 17 years old, Cox was just completing her swim off Seal Beach, CA, and heading toward shore when the ocean became unusually rough and swarming with small fish. A large animal that she at first mistook for a shark was swimming just beneath her. In fact, it was an 18-foot-long baby gray whale. Cox was frightened and then enchanted by the playful creature that seemed to want to follow her to shore, an act that would be fatal for him. She developed an emotional bond with the whale she calls Grayson, guiding him away from the shore. Both teen and calf were hungry, fatigued, and dehydrated, but Cox, frozen to the bone in 55-degree water, was determined to find the baby's mother. With incredible optimism and courage, and the guidance and encouragement of nearby fishermen and lifeguards, Cox finally united Grayson with his huge, barnacled parent. This true adventure is as breathtaking as the exotic underwater life that the author describes in vivid detail.  
Jackie Gropman, Chantilly Regional Library, Fairfax County, VA Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

oddsandhens.wordpress.comIs it really a book about a baby whale? Sure, if you judge it by its cover. Lynne has shared with us a personal memory of swimming with a baby whale separated from its mother. She describes all of the vibrant sea life and the swimming experience in a way that almost transports you there (why yes, how could I forget how annoying sand in my suit is...). The total time spanned in the book is just less than a few hours of one morning, and probably takes less to read, but Lynne grows and experiences years of lessons. A notable characteristic of this book that at times felt rather cloying, especially if you took it in context, are the plentiful life lessons presented right in the text as part of her seventeen year old stream of consciousness. However, just

take a pause and move below the surface (as Lynne often does in this tale) and reflect for just a bit longer. I want to share with you some of thought capsules to be consumed. Capsule # 1: Be patient. Wait. Nothing is all good or all bad. As a problem develops, so does the solution. [p. 133] Capsule # 2: Waiting is as important as the doing . . . it's painting the subject and the space in between; is the reading and the thinking about what you've read; it's the written words, what is said and what is left unsaid; it's the space between thoughts on the pages, that makes the story and it's the space between the notes, the intervals between fast and slow, that makes the music. . . [p.103] Capsule # 3: Use your heart. it is love that surpasses all boarders and barriers. It is a constant and endless sea. Speak ... with your heart and ... will hear you. [p.82] Capsule # 4: It's always difficult to swim against the tide . . . because the ideas that could result might cause something to change. . . if I didn't move outside my comfort level, how would I ever experience anything new, how would I ever learn or see or explore. [p 80] Capsule # 5: Sometimes ... the important things take time, sometimes they don't happen all at once, sometimes answers come out of time and struggle and learning. [p.73] Capsule # 6: ... it's the process of doing that makes things clear. If we don't start, we never know what could have been. Sometimes the answers we find while searching are better or more creative than anything we could have imagined before. [p.56] Capsule # 7: a thought is energy and as it is transmitted it is multiplied. Thoughts can can be either positive, negative or neutral ..... affecting ht way other people think. If I thought negatively, I would put out negative energy. But if I thought positively, I would put out positive energy, expanding the possibilities of what could happen. It is very much like actors improvising. If they work together.... respond to one another in a positive way they keep their skit ... moving forward..... as soon as someone puts forth soothing negative, the improvisation shuts down. [pp 47-48]Is this really a book a about a whale? That is for you to decide. Be patient, it will be the space between the words on the page. Take from here what you will but use your heart, find the tide to challenge and by doing find clarity, maybe where you least expect it.

This is a story I will read to my granddaughters. It is written by Lynn Cox, who I so admire and expresses such an appreciation for ocean life and all that dwell there. While training off the coast of California early one morning. Lynn Cox experienced a strange sensation. She was swimming in the predawn hours, getting her miles in swimming and after experiencing the sensation of a huge disturbance in the water, she started hearing sounds that were new to her. After a while, she realized it was a baby gray whale and he was staying close to her. She talked to a friend who was watching her and told him what was going on. It was during the grey whale migration and she did not want Greyson, as she dubbed him, to stay lost and become prey. She started to swim to a buoy

which was close to the grey whale route. Hoping that Greyson would hear his mother and reunite with her. Lynn swam for miles, while her friend contacted whale watch and rescue groups to look for Greyson's mother.

This is a story that will appeal to readers who lead with their emotions and believe in "happily ever after" endings. It is written by Lynne Cox, (a long-distance ocean swimmer of considerable fame) based on the chance encounter she had (at age 17) with a baby whale while swimming in the Pacific ocean off the coast of California. The whale had apparently separated from its mother and Lynne Cox is determined to help the baby reunite with its mother. The whole incident took perhaps 2 hours, and although the book is already rather short, I felt as though there were a lot of filler pages to make this into a novel. (I think it actually better classified as a short story that was "filled" with miscellaneous details to make a short novel). I write that it appeals to those who believe in happily ever after endings, because her writing implies this belief. It makes a very good children's story, and if I still had young children, I'd read them a chapter each night. She attributes human emotions to both the baby and mother whale, and believes that she called the mother whale with "thought" energy. In frank reality, the baby and mother might have been reunited with or without the help of Lynne Cox, but of course this sort of cynicism spoils the purpose of the book. Ms. Cox wrote a much better book, "Swimming to Antarctica" before this book, and I heartily recommend this book over the "Grayson" book. Save "Grayson" for the kids, for it is more a fairy tale for young minds than reality. kone

Sweet story of a long distance, open-water swimmer and a lost baby whale. It's really more of an essay. What I liked was that the author actually lived in my neighborhood in Los Alamitos and would be seen often, walking her dogs. It was fun knowing exactly where the story took place, since those were my haunts when I was growing up. That said, I loved reading about Lynn's description of swimming, the ocean, and all the senses related to that. She described it all very well. It certainly is not a "meaty" book, but a great story of a rare encounter with a whale.

Whimsical true story filled with strength, imagination and positivity. Great read for my daughters ages 13 and 10.

One of my favorite books! Lynne Cox's experience as a teen is a wonderful example that caring and love have no boundaries, and that the world is so much bigger than just ourselves. So many life

lessons explored in one chance meeting.

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