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## The Story of the Whale Watchers

Joanna McIntyre Varawa

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**The Story of the Whale Watchers**

By Joanna McIntyre Varawa

*Originally Published in  
The Delicate Art of Whale Watching,  
Sierra Club Books 1991*

While the people were sleeping  
in the room  
listening to the air conditioner  
the whales were drifting  
in the star-filled water

listening to the singing  
coming from the fish  
and the snails  
watching the blur of neon light  
as the fish cruised  
or slept in their caves  
drifting in the water  
bodies bobbing in the surge.

While the people were sleeping  
and the wind blowing  
outside the windows  
the deer were resting under the trees  
backs to the wind  
dark star-filled eyes  
glistening.

In the morning the maid comes into the room  
and makes the bed  
empties the ashtrays  
and closing and locking the big glass doors  
sprays room freshener  
on the carpet and the drapes  
and locks the door and leaves  
the room humming with the sound of water  
running through the pipes  
the smell of perfume  
settling on the bed.

