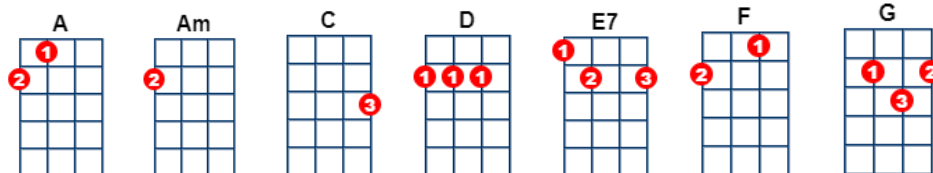


Whale – Paul Hale



[Am] Joseph [G] Starbuck² heading for the [Am] sperm,
 [F] Searching for the [C] pods, for the [G] chase,
 Left my [Am] wife, [G] kids and [C] home [F] behind,
 Greasy-[C]luck³ and a [G] smile⁴ on my [Am] face.

[Am] Grey seas [G] rising, haul on shorten'd [Am] sail,
 [F] Rolling through the [C] dark, through the [G] night,
 Cold food [Am] fayre 'n [G] rum to [C] drive the [F] soul,
 Tired and [C] wet to [G] face the new [Am] light.
 [C] Mm mm [G] mm [Am] mm

*I'm [A] breaching, [D] now [A] I [E7] breach,
 I'm [D] diving [A] go-[E7]ing [A] deep,
 I'm [A] breaching, [D] now [A] I [E7] breach,
 No [D] tears show [A] when [E7] I [A] weep.
 I'm [A] bleeding, [D] now [A] I [E7] bleed,
 [C] A harpoon [A] in [E7] my [A] side
 I'm [A] bleeding, [D] now [A] I [E7] bleed,
 My [D] flesh soon [A] to [E7] be [A] tried¹.*

[Am] Pull you [G] sailors, straining on your [Am] oars,
 [F] Climbing through the [C] waves, through the [G] fray,
 Bend your [Am] backs, [G] there she [C] blows [F] away,
 True your [C] aim, 'poon to [G] hold, Nantucket [Am] sleigh⁵.

[Am] Trypots⁶ [G] smokin' taste it in the [Am] air,
 [F] Telling what we [C] do, what [G] we are,
 Keep a [Am] sharp [G] eye for [C] those who'd [F] claim⁷,
 The [C] cargo we've [G] chased long and [Am] far.
 [C] Mm mm [G] mm [Am] mm.

*I'm [A] breaching, [D] now [A] I [E7] breach,
 I'm [D] diving [A] go-[E7]ing [A] deep,
 I'm [A] breaching, [D] now [A] I [E7] breach,
 No [D] tears show [A] when [E7] I [A] weep.
 I'm [A] bleeding, [D] now [A] I [E7] bleed,
 [C] A harpoon [A] in [E7] my [A] side
 I'm [A] bleeding, [D] now [A] I [E7] bleed,
 My [D] flesh soon [A] to [E7] be [A] tried¹.*

[Am] Three years [G] outward bowing to [Am] the sea,
[F] Wrestling with its [C] moods, with [G] its ways,
Scrimshaw [Am] gifts for [G] those [C] we left [F] behind,
Homeward [C] bound for [G] our Nantucket [Am] bay.

(Outro)

Barrels, barrels, rail t' rail.

[Am] Blow on, [C] blow on, [G] fill [Am] our sails,
[Am] [C] [G] [Am]
[C] Mm [G] mm [F] mm [G] mm [Am] mm

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1. Tried or tried-out was the process to extract oil from slices of blubber.
 2. In 1838, Joseph Starbuck built the last whaler constructed at Brant Point and named it after himself – the 'Joseph Starbuck'
 3. 'Greasy luck' was wished to the crew on leaving meaning good luck and success in your search of whale.
 4. With men being away from their homes for up to five years, women had to run the home and look after their children. They became business owners and independent. The return of their husbands was a temporary situation which soon grew irksome and both were happy for him to return to sea.
 5. Whale boats would harpoon a whale and secure the boat while it was pulled along and the whale exhausted itself. This was referred to as the 'Nantucket sleighride'.
 6. Trypots were iron cauldrons which were mounted on the deck and used to boil strips of blubber to extract the whale oil. The fires were started using wood and then fed with whale blubber to keep going – hence the strong smell and smoke given off whale ships.
 7. This is a nod to an era when America was at war with England and the cargoes of American ships were targets.