

The book cover features a vibrant, stylized illustration of an underwater scene. A large blue whale with white spots on its side is the central focus, swimming towards the right. The water is a mix of light and dark blues, with various colorful fish and coral reefs scattered throughout. In the background, a tropical beach with palm trees and a snowy mountain range are visible, suggesting a transition between two different environments. The title 'a big CHANGE happened' is prominently displayed in the center, with 'CHANGE' in large, bold, red letters and 'a big' and 'happened' in smaller, blue letters. The authors' names are at the bottom.

HELPING CHILDREN THROUGH UPHEAVAL

a big  
**CHANGE**  
happened

Written by  
**DARBY A. STRICKLAND**

Illustrated by  
**KEVIN & KRISTEN HOWDESHELL**



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Wallace was a little whale. Well, actually, he was little for a whale, but BIG compared to a person. He was more than ten feet long and weighed a ton!

So, it was a good thing Wallace didn't have to walk! He swam everywhere. He had fins to help him swim and a funny hump on his back.

All day long he swam in the warm water, near the green island where he was born.



He swam right next to Mama Whale. Wallace was happiest when he swam beside Mama. Sometimes Mama and Wallace would jump out of the water and slap their tails at the same time, just for fun. Wallace loved jumping and diving.

Mama would say, "Let's go, Wallace. This is what whales do!" Then they would jump and dive and slap their tails again and again. When Wallace was hungry, Mama fed him. He drank gallons and gallons of milk every day. And every day he got bigger and jumped higher.



When Wallace wanted to talk to Mama, he whispered a whale song to her.  
And Mama would trumpet a whale song right back.

Every day Mama sang to Wallace about how God made them and gave them their island home. Every song ended with, "God's love follows you, wherever you go and whatever you do."

All around them other whales were singing too. Wallace had a lot of friends.  
There was William, Wanda, Wesley, and Winnie.



They sang together, then dove and jumped together.

Wallace was happy living in the warm clear water next to the green island, surrounded by bright fish, listening to the whales' songs, and playing with his friends.



Then one day, Mama sang a new song to Wallace.  
It was a song he had never heard before.

It was all about a **BIG CHANGE!**

They were leaving the warm, clear water by the  
green island. They were leaving the bright fish.

They were going on a long journey,  
far, far north, where the water  
was cold, but where the food they  
needed was everywhere.

Mama said, "This is what whales do.  
We are starting our journey soon."

Wallace didn't like the sound of this.  
Wallace's heart thudded.  
He didn't want to go.