

Monster Anatomy

The Book of Beastly Biology

*The unauthorised edition
by Bai Ze*

Matt Ralphs
Caillin Turner

B
I
G
P I C
T U R E
P R E S S

**COVER
NOT FINAL**

Bake-Kujira

The Ghost Whale

Many years ago, while sailing to Japan, a fierce and sudden storm engulfed us.

The wind howled, rain lashed the deck and monstrous waves tossed our ship.

A piercing scream cut through the gale – it was the lookout stationed at the prow. He turned away from the sea, his face twisted in terror. In that instant, I glimpsed a massive pale shape break the ocean's surface. Before I could grasp what I had seen, the captain ordered me to close my eyes and not open them until he said it was safe. Once the storm subsided, I dared to ask what had so terrified the crew. The captain

leaned in close, his voice trembling with fear. "Bake-Kujira," he whispered.

"The vengeful spirit of a whale. All who lay eyes upon it are cursed!"

Bake-Kujira has no brain, yet is unnervingly intelligent. Its huge skull is marked with fractures, perhaps from ferocious underwater battles, or ramming ships.

The exaggerated jaw structure is more monstrous than a typical whale's, with jagged teeth designed for tearing through far more sinister things than fish. Another tool for this creature's unquenchable taste for vengeance?

Glowing orbs suspended inside the eye sockets create the impression of sentience.

The empty ribcage pulses with a haunting, glowing energy, suggesting an unknown power sustaining it.

Although Bake-Kujira resembles a humpback, it defies classification, existing solely as a stark white skeleton stripped of skin, blubber and muscle. Joints move with a strange fluidity, despite the absence of cartilage or synovial liquid to lubricate them, suggesting an otherworldly force guiding its movements.

Its unnaturally twisted spine has spikes protruding outward, giving the skeleton a menacing, armoured look.

Harbinger of Doom

Bake-Kujira never swims alone. A sinister shoal of silver fish moves in unnerving synchrony through its creaking bones. Eyewitnesses describe them as 'strange' and 'eerie', unlike any known fish. Why do they follow Bake-Kujira? What purpose do they serve?

Vengeance on Waves

Is it true that all who see Bake-Kujira are cursed? I sought out one of its victims, finding a woman living alone in a cave. Her hollow face told the tale of the horror she'd endured. Bake-Kujira had risen from the depths alongside her fishing boat in a surge of darkness and bone. Terrified, she rowed to shore, unknowingly carrying a curse. In the months that followed, disaster struck – the village was devastated by fire, crops failed and a plague spread. Blamed by the villagers, she fled into solitude. After hearing her story, I believe Bake-Kujira is the vengeful spirit of a hunted whale, seeking revenge on humankind.

Its skeletal flippers have long, spindly projections. Grotesque, dark tendrils move independently as it glides on unseen currents.