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Faith

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JAYME HUGHES

FAITH

Imagine: the whale calf stranded
in the waters north of Sydney.
The local newspapers report
the whale's attempts to suckle from
a yacht afloat in the bay,

the knobby head bumping against
the boat's hull, seeking milk. After
two days, the obvious: the calf
won't abandon the craft he has
decided is his mother.

Anesthetic, a fatal dose:
necessary so the whale will
not suffer, will not starve, lost
and alone, shark-bitten, adrift
in shallow water. All efforts

to lure him out to sea fail as
the crowd at shore's edge grows quiet.
And isn't that love? Faith, no matter
how fruitless? Abiding despite
the temptation, the cost?