For Better or Worse - Shark Fishing – by Kaelin Scott

About eight years ago, my husband and I did something daring.

Along with his parents and sister, we went shark fishing. That would have been pretty daring on its own, but it gets better. We went at night, in the pitch black, on a tiny 30-foot boat, in the roughest waters our guides had seen all summer. It was an exhilarating, terrifying, nauseating (thank you, motion sickness) experience. One that I will never forget.

I ended up reeling in a 75-pound blacktip shark, which took me about 30 minutes of fighting. Meanwhile, the boat was tossing back and forth so violently, my husband had to hold onto my belt loops to keep me from falling overboard. Not only that, but the waves were so high that I was actually reeling UP TO THE SHARK. My family could literally see it swimming above me as I was fighting it. Talk about crazy!! By the time we got back to the dock at around 3 am, I was thankful to be on solid ground again.

I can't say I'd necessarily want to repeat this experience, but I'm sure glad we did it. It makes for a great story, and it's definitely a funny memory. I can't believe we were daring enough to go out and do something so wild. Thinking back on that night reminds me of the sense of adventure I've always felt around my husband, as well as the thrill of being alive.

Most people expect calm waters, smooth sailing, and no storms when they say their wedding vows, but marriage can sometimes be a lot like that fishing trip. Rough waters are bound to come, and so are dark nights. Maybe even a shark or two. Every couple faces storms, but it's up to us to decide how we handle them. The storms can tear us apart, or we can use them to make our relationship stronger. We can fight and argue, or we can stand together and get through it.

The good news is that the rough waters never last forever. Eventually, we will arrive safely back on shore. And we'll be able to look back at those stormy times with gratitude for the ways they helped us grow, even if we're glad they're over.