

BIO AND VITA FOR LAURIE MCANDISH KING

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Laurie McAndish King writes about searching for 20-foot-long Australian earthworms, walking on a man-eating lake, and hearing an Ivy League astrophysicist's explanation of how flying saucers are powered—not your typical travel writing. That's probably why *Kirkus Reviews* hails her as “an author with an eye for the quirky.” Her stories—poignant, insightful and often quite funny—are always inspiring and entertaining.

Laurie grew up in a small town in rural Iowa, earned her undergraduate degree in philosophy at Cornell College, and moved to San Francisco, where she studied botany, computer programming, and urban shamanism while bouncing around at a number of pleasant but uninspiring jobs. She eventually landed at an ad agency, reveling in its intoxicating mix of graphic design, quantitative analysis, and really smart co-workers; found professional success; and hung on way longer than was really necessary.

That career sent her to Melbourne, Australia, where she opened a subsidiary office, worked for a year ... and caught the travel bug. Everywhere Laurie went, adventure followed. She has written about trailing lemurs through the mountains of Madagascar; searching County Cork, Ireland, for clues to an ancient erotic goddess; meeting the Indonesian healer Elizabeth Gilbert wrote about in *Eat, Pray, Love*; failing miserably at flamenco dancing; and encountering shrunken heads.

Along the way she earned a master's degree in Internet-based education, trapped and banded raptors in the headlands just north of San Francisco, co-developed an app about the San Francisco waterfront that earned a 5-star rating from Apple, published a volume of erotic poetry—for which she was dubbed the Shel Silverstein of erotica—and co-edited two anthologies in the *Hot Flashes: Sexy little stories and poems* series.

Laurie is a member of Left Coast Writers, a past president of Bay Area Travel Writers, and a judge for the Society of Professional Journalists' annual Excellence in Journalism awards. She lives in northern California, where she interviews fascinating people, writes, and communes with woodland creatures.

AWARD-WINNING CONTENT

King's award-winning essays and photography have appeared in *Smithsonian* magazine, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, *The Best Women's Travel Writing*, Lonely Planet's *The Kindness of Strangers*, and a dozen literary anthologies. One of her stories earned a Lowell Thomas Gold Award, travel writing's most prestigious honor, and she contributed to a Lowell Thomas award-winning podcast. Together, the three books in King's Curious Traveler series have earned more than a dozen literary awards.

One of King's photos won first place in *Smithsonian* magazine's photo contest (from 60,000 entries) and was displayed in the *Smithsonian* for six months.

THE “CURIOUS TRAVELER” SERIES

Lost, Kidnapped, Eaten Alive! True Stories from a Curious Traveler

Launch yourself on a world-class armchair journey with these travel adventures. This first book in the Curious Traveler series includes the most dramatic situations: Surviving a lion hunt—on foot, with no guns—in Botswana; accidentally marrying a Maasai warrior in Kenya; locking the keys in the car in the middle of the Australian outback; and being kidnapped in Tunisia.

One of the stories, “Silk from Ashes,” earned a Lowell Thomas Gold Award—the highest honor in American travel writing. This book also won honors from the North American Book Awards, the San Francisco Book Festival, and others.

Your Crocodile has Arrived, More True Stories from a Curious Traveler

Celebrate oddities and ephemera around the world in the second Curious Traveler book: Track flightless birds in New Zealand; befriend a Brazilian shaman; revel in whole-body chocolate massage in Seville, and make a pilgrimage to visit a sacred 2,500-year-old tooth in Sri Lanka.

Your Crocodile has Arrived was called “thoroughly engrossing” by *Midwest Book Review* and earned a first-place Independent Press Award, a gold Readers’ Favorite award, and others.

An Elephant Ate My Arm: More True Stories from a Curious Traveler

The newest release includes stories about King’s most intriguing encounters: a three-eyed cannibal, Japanese pizza that seems to be alive, the legendary Minoan minotaur, a man-eating lake, a witch in a bottle, and more. The stories raise questions about free will, domestication, crossing the line, compressing time, extinction, and even rewriting history.

An Elephant Ate My Arm earned first place at the Paris Book Festival and also received awards from the San Francisco Book Festival, The Independent Press Awards, and Shelf Unbound Best Indie Book Awards.

AUDIO, A MOBILE APP, AND MORE

- Laurie has been podcasting since 2007, and is an associate producer for an NPR-affiliate podcast, *Journeys of Discovery* with Tom Wilmer. Her audio segments include interviews with a futurist, ecologists, a rancher, vintners, a National Geographic photographer, the co-founder of *The Ethical Traveler*, a Yale World Fellow, and the first woman to row a boat single-handedly across three oceans.
- The mobile app about the San Francisco Waterfront King co-authored is 5-star rated in the Apple app store.
- Laurie also wrote *An Erotic Alphabet* (for which she was dubbed “The Shel Silverstein of Erotica”) and co-edited two volumes of erotica in the *Hot Flashes, sexy little stories and poems* series.

- Laurie’s class, “From Sense to Sensuality — Enliven Any Genre” was one of the most popular at the Central Coast Writers Conference.
- King serves as a judge for the Society of Professional Journalists’ Excellence in Journalism Awards (2019, 2020, 2021).

BOOKS WRITTEN

- *An Elephant Ate My Arm: More True Stories from a Curious Traveler* (Destination Insights, 2021)
- *Your Crocodile has Arrived: More True Stories from a Curious Traveler* (Destination Insights, 2017)
- *Lost, Kidnapped, Eaten Alive! True Stories from a Curious Traveler* (Destination Insights, 2014)
- *An Erotic Alphabet* (Laurie McQueen, 2009)

BOOKS EDITED

- *Hot Flashes 2: More Sexy Little Stories & Poems* (Left Coast Writers, 2007)
- *Hot Flashes: Sexy Little Stories & Poems* (Left Coast Writers, 2004)

ANTHOLOGIES

Contribution Title	Anthology Title	Publisher and Date
• “Speaking Malagasy”	<i>Travel Stories of Wonder and Change</i>	Bay Area Travel Writers, 2021
• “My Extra-Virgin Experiment”	<i>Wandering in Greece</i>	Wanderland Writers, 2020
• “Dreaming the Minotaur”	<i>Wandering in Greece</i>	Wanderland Writers, 2020
• “Cuba Through the Looking Glass”	<i>Wandering in Cuba</i>	Wanderland Writers, 2018
• “Cuba—Full of Flavor”	<i>Wandering in Cuba</i>	Wanderland Writers, 2018
• “From Guinea Pigs to Great Wine”	<i>Taste of Travel, 2017</i>	Bay Area Travel Writers, 2017
• “Chocotherapy”	<i>Wandering in Andalusia</i>	Wanderland Writers, 2016
• “Finding my Inner Gypsy”	<i>Wandering in Andalusia</i>	Wanderland Writers, 2016
• “Your Crocodile has Arrived”	<i>Taste of Travel, 2016</i>	Bay Area Travel Writers, 2016
• “The Mermaid, the Curmudgeon, the Churchyard, and the Magician”	<i>Wandering in Cornwall</i>	Wanderland Writers, 2015
• “Cheater’s High”	<i>Wandering in Cornwall</i>	Wanderland Writers, 2015
• “The Bald Eagles of Klamath Basin”	<i>Travel Features and Photos —National Parks</i>	Bay Area Travel Writers, 2015
• “A San Francisco Waterfront Walk”	<i>Travel Features and Photos —National Parks</i>	Bay Area Travel Writers, 2015
• “Silk from Ashes”	<i>Clips & Pics</i>	Bay Area Travel Writers, 2014
• “French Kiss”	<i>Wandering in Paris</i>	Wanderland Writers, 2013
• “Bien Etre at the Hammam”	<i>Wandering in Paris</i>	Wanderland Writers, 2013
• “Death in Paris”	<i>Wandering in Paris</i>	Wanderland Writers, 2013
• “Eat, Pray, Scrub”	<i>Wandering in Bali</i>	Wanderland Writers, 2012
• “Magical Beans”	<i>Wandering in Bali</i>	Wanderland Writers, 2012
• “Silk from Ashes”	<i>Travel Stories from Around the Globe</i>	Bay Area Travel Writers, 2012

- “Lemurs and Leeches” Animal Addict’s Guide to Global Volunteer Travel Dog’s Eye View, 2011
- “Stravinsky’s Gift” *Wandering in Costa Rica* Wanderland Writers, 2010
- “Big Cats—No Guns” *The Best Women’s Travel Writing 2009* Travelers’ Tales, 2009
- “Could I Eat a Horse?” *Venturing in Italy* Travelers’ Tales, 2008
- “Waist-ing Away in Apulia” *Venturing in Italy* Travelers’ Tales, 2008
- “A Culinary Trinity” *Venturing in Ireland* Travelers’ Tales, 2007
- “Sheela-na-Gig” *Venturing in Ireland* Travelers’ Tales, 2007
- “Banana Tower” *30 Days in Italy* Travelers’ Tales, 2006
- “Keys to the Outback” *The Thong Also Rises* Travelers’ Tales, 2005
- “At a Crossroads” *The Kindness of Strangers* Lonely Planet, 2003

ARTICLES

- “Hooked on Hawk Hill”—*Marin* magazine, July 2017
- “Angel Island Immigration Station”—*Marin* magazine, September 2016
- “Hawk Talk”—*Marin* magazine, September 2016
- “Jessica Posner and Kennedy Odede Transform Africa’s Largest Urban Slum”—*The Women’s Eye*, January 12, 2016
- “Botswana”—*Marin* magazine, September 2015
- “Author Paula McLain Reimagines the Lives of Two Remarkable Women”—*The Women’s Eye*, November 16, 2015
- “Dr. Christine Carter on Finding Your Sweet Spot at Home and Work”—*The Women’s Eye*, April 16, 2015
- “Photojournalist Lynsey Addario On Her Relentless Pursuit of Truth”—*The Women’s Eye*, April 7, 2015
- “Wreaths: Perfect for Every Season”—*Sonoma* magazine, November/December 2014
- “Jane Goodall, Champion of Chimpanzees, on Seeds of Hope”—*The Women’s Eye*, April 18, 2014
- “Celebrating Kathi Kamen Goldmark’s Life and ‘Her Wild Oats’”—*The Women’s Eye*, August 31, 2014
- “Author Kelly Corrigan on the ‘Glitter and Glue’ of Motherhood”—*The Women’s Eye*, March 18, 2014
- “Authors Elizabeth Gilbert and Kelly Corrigan Talk Science, Spirit and Shoes”—*The Women’s Eye*, December 29, 2013
- “‘*The Signature of All Things*’ by Elizabeth Gilbert”—*The Women’s Eye*, October 17, 2013
- “Author Anne Lamott Stitches Life Back Together”—*The Women’s Eye*, November 10, 2013
- “Madeleine Albright Presents ‘Prague Winter’ – A Personal Story”—*The Women’s Eye*, March 8, 2013
- “Author Barbara Kingsolver Writes About Global Climate Change and Hope”—*The Women’s Eye*, November 26, 2012
- “Anne Lamott on Writing, Prayer and the Secret to Life”—*The Women’s Eye*, December 12, 2012
- “At a Crossroads”—Passionfruit, June 2012
- “When a Body Reading in Indonesia Just isn’t Enough”—*San Francisco Chronicle* and SFGate.com, June 17, 2012
- “Animal Attraction in San Francisco”—Destination Insights, March 2012
- “Banana Tower”—Passionfruit, 2012
- “Big Cats, No Guns”—Passionfruit, 2012
- “Elizabeth Gilbert’s ‘At Home On the Range’”—*The Women’s Eye*, May 9, 2012
- “Playwright Eve Ensler, Founder of the V-Day Movement, On the Power of Emotions”—*The Women’s Eye*, March 27, 2012

- “Soul Mate in a Box”—*The Sun*, January 2012
- “Roz Savage on Her Record-Breaking Row Across Three Oceans”—*The Women’s Eye*, November 19, 2011
- “Caroline Kennedy on Why Poetry Matters”—*The Women’s Eye*, April 16, 2011
- “Just Back from Mostar”—*San Francisco Chronicle*, April 6, 2008
- “Just Back from Libya”—*San Francisco Chronicle*, March 9, 2008
- “Just Back from Uglich”—*San Francisco Chronicle*, November 30, 2008
- “The Anti-Ugly American”—*San Francisco Chronicle Magazine*, March 18, 2007
- “Of Lemurs and Leeches”—*San Francisco Chronicle Magazine*, March 19, 2006
- “Keys to the Outback”—*Travelers’ Tales Editors’ Choice*, 2004
- “Which Way is North”—*Travelers’ Tales Editors’ Choice*, 2003

AWARDS AND HONORS

- Solas Travel Writing Awards, 2 Gold, 1 Silver, 2 Honorable Mentions, 2022
- Readers’ Favorite, Distinguished Favorite, 2022
- Paris Book Festival, First Place, 2021
- Readers’ Favorite, 5-star Review, 2021
- San Francisco Book Festival, Runner Up, 2021
- Shelf Unbound Best Indie Book, Notable 100, 2021
- Independent Press Awards, Distinguished Favorite, 2021
- Solas Travel Writing Awards, 2 Honorable Mentions, 2021
- Bay Area Travel Writers Rebecca Bruns Award, 2020
- San Francisco Book Festival, Honorable Mention, 2020
- Independent Press Award, 1st Place, 2020
- Solas Travel Writing Awards, 1 Silver, 2 Bronze, 1 Honorable Mentions, 2020
- North American Book Awards, Silver and Bronze, 2020
- American Book Festival, Best Book Awards, 2019
- Readers’ Favorite, Gold, 2018
- BATW Planet Earth award, 2017
- BATW Best, Gold, 2017
- North American Book Awards, Silver, 2017
- San Francisco Book Festival, 1st Place, 2017
- Independent Press Award, 2017
- Readers’ Favorite, Silver, 2017
- Lowell Thomas Award for Best Cultural Tourism Article, Gold, 2013
- Book Passage Travel Writers Conference, Travel Writer’s Award, 2nd Place, 2013
- BATW Planet Earth, Silver, 2010
- BATW Best, 2 Honorable Mentions, 2010
- Solas Travel Writing Awards, Silver, Bronze, Honorable Mention, 2008
- BATW Planet Earth, Gold, 2008
- BATW Best, Silver, Bronze, 2008
- Solas Travel Writing Awards, Honorable Mention, 2007

PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

- Lee Foster Photo Award, “Lucky Catch,” 2021
- BATW Best, “Italian Fisherman” and “Intimissimi,” 2017
- *Smithsonian* magazine photo contest, “Hidden Frog,” First Place, 2010