

## Short Bio

I was born in Washington State. We moved to Colorado when I was seven, and I grew up hiking, camping and skiing in the mountains. Because so many people in my family read books to me, I came to love reading, and I was wild about horses.

I wrote my first book, *Rustlers of the High Country*, with my best friend Laurie when I was in fifth grade. This remarkable tale about two little girls outwitting horse thieves was never published, but it did show me how fun it could be to write stories. I finally was able to buy my own horse in seventh grade and Lark and I went on to have all sorts of real adventures trail riding and jumping. I attended high school in Virginia where I became very interested in studying history.

I went on to college in Vermont where I was able to study lots of American and European History. After deciding the best way to keep learning history was to teach it, I earned my teaching certificate from the University of Colorado. I taught middle school social studies at a private school in Denver for almost a decade. Even though I loved my students, I didn't want to teach summer school. So, I decided to try writing fantasy novels instead, and soon I was hooked on creating magical worlds.

I had to give up teaching when we started moving frequently for my husband's work and when we had our two wonderful daughters. My husband, in the meantime, introduced me to scuba diving, and we've been diving all over the world. When it occurred to me that the ocean might be a fresh setting for a dystopian story, I decided to try writing a book about genetically engineered kids fighting to survive in the sea. I also wrote my Neptune Trilogy because I've always been fascinated by the ocean, I'm VERY worried about climate change, and I needed to make money.

I now live in Plano, Texas with three sweet dogs, two lazy cats and a sweet husband who puts up with piles of books all over our house. I love going to work in my pajamas and getting paid for daydreaming. I also love doing school visits and trying to convince students that writing is the best job, ever!