

Short Bio

I was born in Washington State. We moved to Colorado when I was seven, and I grew up daydreaming, hiking, camping, and skiing in the mountains. Because my family read to me, I came to love reading, and I was WILD about horses. I wrote my first book, *2 Days at Eagle Pass Ranch*, 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 I did discover how fun it is to write stories.

My parents helped me to have my own horse in seventh grade, and Lark and I started having real adventures trail riding and jumping. I went to college in Vermont where I was a ski patroller, studied American History, and graduated summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa. Along the way, I became fascinated by the brave young riders of the Pony Express (their exploits would eventually inspire me to create the sky couriers in *Skyriders*). After deciding the best way to keep learning history was to teach it, I earned my teaching certificate from the University of Colorado and 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 I realized the ocean might be a fresh setting for a dystopian story, I wrote *The Neptune Project*, 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. Then I decided to write a series about brave young couriers delivering the mail on their flying horses across a vast empire. Viking Children's Books bought my *Skyriders* series, and these days I'm having great fun creating more adventures for Kie and N'Rah.

I now live in Steamboat Springs, Colorado with one demanding rescue Chihuahua 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 convincing students that writing is the best job, ever!