

Adventure of a Lifetime

by Cari Legere

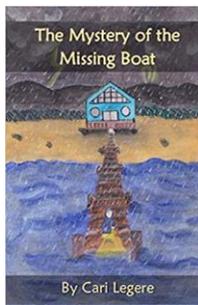
Someone once stated, “Do more things that make you forget to check your phone.” In this era, most people always appear engrossed in their phones with no interest in having an adventure that does not involve an electronic device. If you search meticulously, though, you will discover that out there, some people have not yet been absorbed into the world of technology. I am one of them. Instead of staring at a screen, I take great pleasure in having adventures of various sorts. Thrillingly, reading, which is quite entertaining, leads me on imaginary adventures starring myself as an intrepid heroine that commence as soon as I crack open a book. On the other hand, hiking allows me to enjoy real-life adventures while I trek through a myriad of landscapes.

Reading allows me to explore new worlds without even having to walk out my front door. As a self-proclaimed bookworm, I enjoy various series of multiple genres, but I especially love fantasy because it provides an escape from the bothersome troubles of the real world. Out of the many series I like, my two personal favorites are *Keeper of the Lost Cities* by Shannon Messenger and *The Wingfeather Saga* by Andrew Peterson. Excitingly, *Keeper of the Lost Cities* narrates the ever-continuing tale of a telepathic girl who finds out she is an elf. Although the setting alternates between the human and elven worlds, each location is described vividly, with careful attention to the minutiae. I feel as if I am not simply a reader, but a character in the book. It intrigues and enthralls me. *The Wingfeather Saga*, a powerful four-book series written from a Christian worldview, describes the journey of three seemingly ordinary siblings who discover they are actually royalty. The locations vary from book to book, but they all have a unique charm that sets them apart. Through reading I can explore worlds that exist only in imagination.

Another activity I enjoy, hiking is a wonderful way to enjoy nature. There are trails all over the United States that vary in difficulty and scenery, perfect for everyone’s tastes. In my

lifetime, I've trekked trails of many different difficulties at my places, but two permanently stand out as they truly provided memorable experiences: The Grand Canyon and Chiricahua National Monument. Steadfastly, at the age of twelve, I ventured down to the bottom of this grandiose canyon, loving it the entire way. While this adventure is indeed long and challenging, the scenery is breathtaking. At the very bottom flows the rushing, roaring Colorado River. It continues to awe me. A much less known, but equally gorgeous hike, is the Chiricahua National Monument, which was formed during the Great Depression, located in Cochise County, Arizona. Its main highlight is spectacular rock formations and hoodoos, with quirky names such as "Duck on a Rock" and "Balanced Rock." In order to enjoy nature, hiking is never a regrettable idea.

Endlessly, as a reader, I can explore places that sadly, only exist in the wondrous realm of imagination. When I hike, I am able to experience nature, which inspires me, in all sorts of different ways. To me, however, reading and hiking aren't just activities. They are much more. They are different ways of fleeing the troubles of this life. They are ways to cheer you up when you feel down. They are adventures. So set down your phone, grab a book or lace up your hiking boots, and enjoy the adventure of a lifetime.



Cari is the author of *The Mystery of the Missing Boat*, available on Amazon.