

Cory Mortensen

Author Biography

Cory Mortensen is an award-winning travel memoir author whose books explore the transformative power of movement, curiosity, and the unexpected encounters that shape a life. Through long-distance cycling journeys, international travel, and immersive cultural experiences, he writes stories that blend adventure, history, humor, and personal reflection.

His books include *The Buddha and the Bee*, which chronicles a solo bicycle journey from Minneapolis to California; *UNLOST*, a two-year odyssey through Latin America that culminates in Antarctica; *Embracing Bewilderment*, a memoir spanning Europe and Asia during a period of entrepreneurial growth and self-discovery; and *Middle Miles*, a cycling journey along the Pacific Coast Highway from Canada to Mexico. His work has earned more than twenty literary awards and honors and has received editorial recognition from Kirkus Reviews, Foreword Reviews, Readers' Favorite, IndieReader, BlueInk Review, and Self-Publishing Review.

Drawing inspiration from writers such as Bill Bryson, Jon Krakauer, and J. Maarten Troost, Mortensen focuses less on reaching destinations and more on understanding the people, stories, and histories found along the way. His narratives often explore overlooked communities, forgotten places, and the lessons discovered when plans unravel and certainty disappears.

In addition to writing, Mortensen produces travel films, teaches memoir writing, and speaks about storytelling, adventure, and creative risk-taking. He believes that curiosity remains one of life's greatest tools and that meaningful experiences often begin when we step beyond the familiar. Mortensen lives in Arizona with his wife, Kate, where he continues to write, travel, and search for the next story waiting just beyond the horizon.