REBECCA LAWTON

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SUMMARY OF EXPERIENCE

Author, fluvial geologist, and former Colorado River guide Rebecca Lawton writes prose and poetry about water, rivers, and wild and human nature. Her latest book is *Boatwoman: A River Memoir* (Bison/U Nebraska, 2027). She lives and writes by an ephemeral stream in California.

EDUCATION

M.F.A., Creative Writing and Literature. Mills College, Oakland, CA. 1993. Thesis later published as two award-winning books, *Reading Water* (2002) and *Junction, Utah* (2013).

B.S., Earth Sciences. University of California, Santa Cruz. 1976. Honors in thesis on *Dinosauria* bone transport in Mesozoic ephemeral streams, Dinosaur National Monument, Utah-Colorado.

SELECTED HONORS

- Notable Essay, "Considerable Luck." *The Best American Essays.* Guest ed. M. Gessen. 2026.
- Winner, Nautilus Book Award, Silver, Ecology & Environment. *The Oasis This Time*. 2020.
- Fulbright Canada RBC Eco Leadership Program Award. Victoria, BC, and Ottawa, ON. 2017.
- Winner, Waterston Desert Writing Prize. *The Oasis this Time.* Bend, OR. 2015.
- Fulbright Visiting Research Chair. University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB. 2014-15.
- Winner, WILLA Award. *Junction, Utah*. Women Writing the West. Golden, CO. 2014.
- Winner, Desert Writer Award. Ellen Meloy Fund. *Junction, Utah*. Bluff, UT. 2006.

SELECTED NOMINATIONS

- Finalist, Oregon Book Award, Sarah Winnemucca Creative Nonfiction. *The Oasis This Time: Living and Dying with Water in the West.* 2020.
- Finalist, Foreword INDIE Ecology & Environment Award. *The Oasis This Time.* 2019.
- Nominee, *Best American Science and Nature Writing*. "Midnight at the Oasis," *Aeon*. 2016.
- Pushcart Nominee in Fiction. "The Road to Bonanza," *Midway Journal.* June 2011.
- Finalist, Nature Book of Year Award. *ForeWord*. Traverse City, MI. *Reading Water*. 2003.
- Pushcart Nominee in Nonfiction. "Faith in the Dry Season." *Tiny Lights*. Petaluma, CA. 2001.
- Pushcart Nominee in Poetry. "On Hearing about Ted," *the Acorn*. El Dorado, CA. 1995.

SELECTED RESIDENCIES

- U.C. Irvine Steele-Burnand Research Center, Borrego Springs, CA. 2015, 2017, 2025, 2026.
- The Arctic Circle Artist and Science Expeditionary Program. 2018. (Cancelled due to COVID.)
- Writing Residencies, PLAYA, Summer Lake, OR. 2015, 2017.
- Hedgebrook Retreat for Women Writers. Langley, WA. 2009, 2013.
- The Island Institute. Sitka, AK. September 2011.

BOOKS (chronologically within genres)

Fiction

- *What I Never Told You: Stories.* Agua Caliente, CA: Wavegirl Books. 2022.
- *Steelies and Other Endangered Species*. Sarasota, FL: Little Curlew Press. 2014.
- *Junction, Utah*. Encinitas, CA: van Haitsma Literary Digital Books. 2013.

Poetry (Chapbook)

- *Swimming Grand Canyon and Other Poems.* Georgetown, KY: Finishing Line Press. 2021.

Nonfiction

- *Boatwoman: A River Memoir.* Lincoln: Bison Books/University of Nebraska Press. Out 2027.
- *The Oasis This Time: Living and Dying with Water in the West*. Salt Lake: Torrey House. 2019.
- *Sacrament: Homage to a River*, with Geoff Fricker. Berkeley, CA: Heyday Books. 2014.
- *Write Free: Attracting the Creative Life,* with Jordan Rosenfeld. Glen Ellen, CA: Kulupi. 2007.
- *On Foot in Sonoma*, with Arthur Dawson. Glen Ellen, CA: Kulupi Press. 2004. Out of print.
- *Reading Water: Lessons from the River*. Sterling, VA: Capital Books. 2002.
- *Discover Nature in the Rocks*, with Diana Lawton, Susan Panttaja, and Irene Guidici Ehret. Mechanicsburg, PA: Stackpole Books. 1997.

SELECTED ARTICLES AND STORIES (chronologically within genres)

Short Fiction

- "Tuolumne River Days," *Everything Change, Volume II: An Anthology of Climate Fiction*. Editor Kim Stanley Robinson. Tempe, AZ: Arizona State University. January 2019.
- "Evacuees," *Chautauqua*. Wilmington, NC: Chautauqua Institution. 2019. *Sample*.

Poetry

- "Arbor Day" (2022), "A Good Education" (2025), "Domestic Geese" (2026), and "Fledglings" (out March 2027). Canary: A Literary Magazine of the Environmental Crisis. 2022-2027.
- "The Night the County Supervisors Met to Sell the Mountain," *Deep Wild Journal*. 2023.
- "Tradeoffs," Southwest Regional Print Exchange, Arizona State University, Tempe. 2021.

Essays and Articles

- "The Gulf," *The Geography of Light*, anthology forthcoming. Salt Lake: Torrey House, 2027.
- "Considerable Luck," The Sun. November 2025. (Notable Essay, Best American Essays 2026.)
- "Letter to America: When We Were Invisible," Terrain.org. November 2024.
- "Blush and Rouge in Grand Canyon: Interview with Melissa L. Sevigny," Terrain.org. 2023.
- "The End Is Nigh: Grief and the Big-Dam Era," Headwaters Magazine. March 14, 2023.
- "It's Never Too Late to Save a River," https://writersontherange.org/. *Salt Lake Tribune, Las Vegas Sun, Yahoo! News, Adventure Journal*, eighteen other outlets. November 14, 2022.

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Fellow, International League of Conservation Writers. Golden, CO. 2017 to present.
- Member, Women Writing the West. Golden, CO. 2014 to present.