

ELIZABETH GILBERT: Short Bio

Oprah Winfrey calls her a “rock star author.” Annie Proulx calls her “a writer of incandescent talent.” A *New York Magazine* editor calls her the “Queen of Quirk,” and goes on to say, “She has an awful lot of humor and charm, and she’s one of those few writers who writes the way she talks.” And talks the way she writes, we might add—with intelligence, wit and not just a shade of the performer behind her expressive and insightful presentations.

Expansive, exploratory, playful, bright and armed with a comic’s sense of timing, Elizabeth Gilbert is most famous for her recent book *Eat, Pray, Love* (Viking, 2006), the story of the year she spent traveling around the world in search of personal restoration after a difficult divorce. The result is a book which has exploded in popularity with women across the planet. Published in over 30 languages with nearly 7 million copies sold worldwide, *Eat, Pray, Love* is embraced as warmly by critics as by readers.

Hailing from an educated, ascetic rural Connecticut upbringing, Elizabeth Gilbert came to her writing career with fearless reporting skills and an abiding appreciation for working-class values. Gilbert’s clear vision of the irony and absurdity in it all informs an easy, at times wicked wit that shuns any ideological or political agendas—even when she takes on such potentially dangerous topics as divinity and self-transformation.

Her journalism over the years has been published in a variety of publications including *Harper’s Bazaar* and *The New York Times Magazine*, but it was her work for *Spin Magazine* that caught the eye of the editors at *Gentlemen’s Quarterly*, who featured a run of colorful profiles and stories that eventually turned into books—and movies. Her first article for GQ, “The Muse of the Coyote Ugly Saloon,” chronicled her experience as a waitress at the New York City bar of the same name, and was the basis for the 2000 motion picture *Coyote Ugly*.

Gilbert is also the author of four books. Her first, a collection of short-stories entitled *Pilgrims* (1998), was a *New York Times* Most Notable Book and a finalist for the PEN-Hemingway Award. This was followed by the novel *Stern Men* (2000) and the critically acclaimed *The Last American Man* (2002), a nonfiction account of the back-to-basics woodsman Eustace Conway. Nominated for both the National Book Award and the National Book Critics Circle Award, *The Last American Man* compellingly explores America’s long-standing intrigue with a luxury-free, pioneer lifestyle. But it was *Eat, Pray, Love*—Gilbert’s fourth book, and first memoir—which has made her a household name and a beloved “sister/friend/role model” to women (and men, for that matter) across the world. Her next bestselling book entitled *Committed: A Skeptic Makes Peace with Marriage* was published in January of 2010.