



Bio / Profile

CHRIS NELSON

A fourth-generation longshoreman turned novelist, Chris Nelson spent his childhood exploring tidepools at the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium and later leading tours at the Waikīkī Aquarium—learning early that the ocean isn't just water; it's a world of characters, conflicts, and secrets.

Chris began studying marine biology at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, but soon discovered that his true life's work was transforming real maritime history into adventure fiction that puts teen readers at the helm.

Coming from a family of Merchant Mariners, harbor pilots, and a legendary port film buff whose chalkboard movie reviews became a local landmark, Chris writes with one foot on the dock and one in mythic waters. His **Pirate Queens** series is a celebration that honors the working-class heroes of the sea. Through his school visits and workshops, Chris shows kids how the ocean can be read like a map, investigated like a mystery, and honored like a legacy.

ABOUT THE SERIES



This high-seas teen trilogy by Chris Nelson is about survival, unlikely alliance, and the power of choosing your own destiny.

Seventeen-year-old Laura Bentacour relies on logic to navigate a chaotic world. Katherine, a daring pirate captain with secrets buried deeper than the sea, lives by instinct and loyalty to her crew. When a violent shipwreck binds their fates, they are hunted by the Crown and drawn into forces older than empires. What begins as a reluctant alliance becomes a choice: remain fugitives—or rise and change the course of history.

**Kingdoms write laws. The sea creates legends.
And, this time, the legend is the Pirate Queens.**

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ABOUT THE BOOKS

The Pirate Queens of Dicore Island

by Chris Nelson

Seventeen-year-old Laura Bentacour thinks in puzzles and escape routes, not crowns and cutlasses—but after surviving a deadly shipwreck, outsmarting a trap-laden treasure island, and catching the eye of the Crown’s most ruthless general, freedom means more than staying alive. It means guarding the island’s secrets, defying an empire, and trusting Katherine—a daring, secretive captain with her own reasons to run... and fight. To survive, Laura will have to trade logic for legend and risk her heart—so that together, they can become the pirate queens no one saw coming.

The Pirate Queens of Lost Port

by Chris Nelson

After escaping Dicore’s deadly reefs, logic-minded survivor Laura Bentacour and daring captain Katherine sail for Lost Port—the pirate capital where chaos wears a crown. Disguised as men and hunted by the Crown’s armada, they plan to buy the pirates’ loyalty with treasure, myth, and a giant squid named Shimmer. But when an old enemy resurfaces and a shocking secret about the Crown is revealed, Laura must decide what kind of queen she’ll become: the kind who rules with reason—or the kind who burns the world to save it.

The Pirate Queens: Daughters of Lord Gadreon

by Chris Nelson

Imprisoned in the Crown’s palace and betrayed by Grouge, Laura Bentacour and Captain Katherine must reclaim everything they’ve lost—freedom, family, and the truth. Across the Caribose, pirate fleets splinter, islanders rise, and hidden navies sail beneath flags of rebellion. To protect the islands they’ve helped fight to free, Laura and Katherine craft the ultimate deterrent: the myth of Lord Gadreon, the sea god whose daughters rule the deep and devour intruders whole. As their legend spreads, empires tremble, pirates vanish, and the ocean itself grows still. But legends demand sacrifice—and love is never safe from the tide. The Pirate Queens have returned, and this time, the sea answers to them.



Interview Questions



A fourth-generation longshoreman turned novelist, Chris Nelson is the author of the *The Pirate Queens* series.

Family Legacy

- Your family history reads like a maritime epic—Merchant Mariners, harbor pilots, longshoremen, even a port film legend. At what point did you realize these stories weren't just family lore, but the foundation of your life's work?
- Do you see your writing as a continuation of the family legacy?

Ocean Life in Storytelling

- Many fantasy series invent magical creatures—but you draw from reality. If you could make every reader fall in love with one real ocean creature, which would it be—and why?

Pirate History & Myth

- Your series features strong female leadership at sea. Were there real historical pirate queens or unsung women of maritime history who inspired your characters?
- You explore the difference between a pirate myth and a pirate truth. Where does the fiction end and the history begin in your world?
- What do you hope readers carry with them after closing your books—about the ocean, about power, or about themselves?



THE PIRATE QUEENS

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The Author's Legacy

The sea is more than backdrop in Chris Nelson's life—it's inheritance.

His grandfather Einar, who lost his teeth to childhood hunger, went to sea at twelve, crossed oceans in wartime, and earned medals of valor before becoming a harbor pilot guiding ships into Los Angeles.

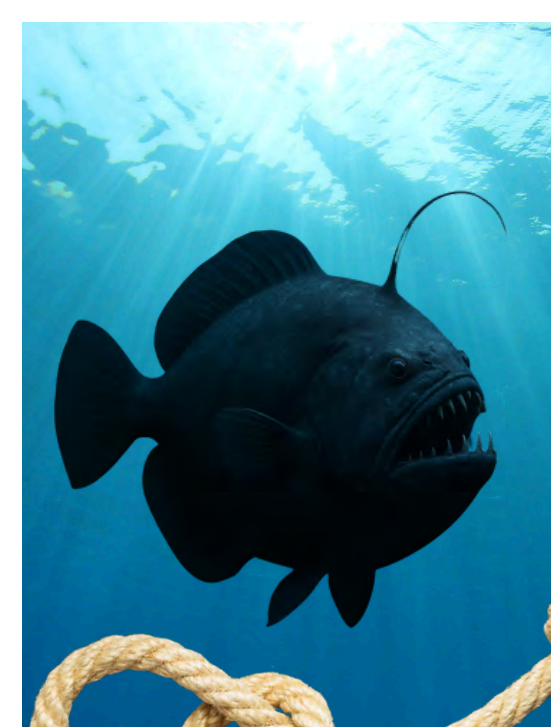
His father's family were longshoremen and merchant mariners—hardworking men who sailed around the world and built new lives along the California coast.

Even his great-uncle Tank became a local legend—part film critic, part philosopher of the docks—known as much for his movie reviews as his maritime roots.

As a fourth-generation seafarer, Chris grew up surrounded by medals, ship models, and stories of survival. Today, he carries that legacy forward not through the helm of a ship—but through the written word that tells the historic fantasy of the Pirate Queens.

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Ocean Education Focus

SCHOOL VISITS AND EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS

Real Ocean Science Behind the Pirate Queens

Chris Nelson, a fourth-generation longshoreman, brings authentic ocean knowledge directly to students through an engaging ocean education program.

Explore real marine biology and ocean ecosystems. Students will discover fascinating facts about giant squid, great white sharks, anglerfish, and sea lions—learning how each species has adapted to survive in extreme underwater environments.

A high-energy, fact-packed presentation that brings to life what we know about Earth's largest and least explored frontier.

*Available for Grades 4 through 12
For classroom or assembly settings*



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THE PIRATE QUEENS



Creative Writing Focus

SCHOOL VISITS AND EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS

From Sea to Story: How a Writer Turns Ocean Facts into Fantasy Worlds and You Can Too!

Dive into the wonders of the ocean and discover how strange creatures, mysterious depths, and true survival stories can become fuel for your imagination. Author Chris Nelson shows students how to use real ocean inspiration—then transform it into fantasy settings, mythical beasts, and legendary adventures of their own.

Available for Grades 4 through 12

Available for Writers of All Ages

Available for Creative Aging Programs



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