



Eilene Lyon
Author, Speaker, Family Historian

Seeing Things



Last month I was standing out on the deck, looking at the dark southern sky when I notice tiny dots of light, all in a row, moving across the horizon from west to east.

I was sure they were satellites, but I'd never seen a whole string of them, evenly spaced before. Fortunately, a friend of mine could tell me what I'd witnessed was a Starlink launch, courtesy of Elon Musk.

There was a time in my life when I didn't know how to spot satellites. Someone had to teach me what to look for. Then I could see them easily. It's the same with birding. I've never seen a Virginia Rail. Or, maybe there has been one right in front of me, but I couldn't SEE it, because no one has ever pointed one out to me.

Creating a search image from a book or app doesn't work as well as having an expert teach us how to recognize something we've never noticed before. I read once (though I don't know how anyone could prove this) that when European ships approached Western hemisphere shores, the Indigenous people couldn't see the sails on the horizon, because they had no mental image to fit the circumstance.

Learning to see new (to us) things takes time, patience, and perhaps a guide. I read this piece on [observing nature](#) that made me realize that taking my binoculars on a dog walk meant I would be paying closer attention. I would see much more, even if I never raised them to my face.

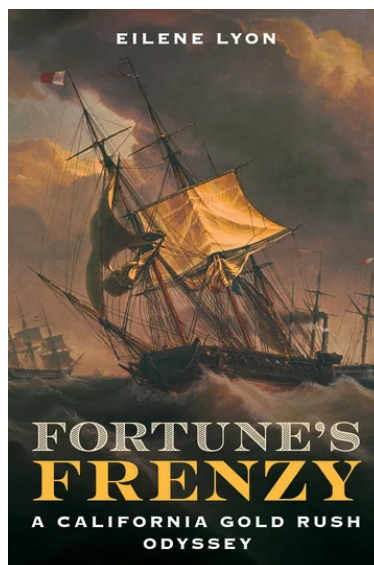
But we should take care in developing our search images. When you buy a new car, you start seeing the same model everywhere, right? If you have a search image for injustice, you will notice it everywhere. If you have a search image of grace, you will see that instead.

Even gold-seekers had to learn to see what they were looking for, not to be fooled by pyrite. If we don't know what we're seeking looks like, how will we find it? Can we recognize it when it crosses our path?

When going about my daily business of life, at the end of the day I must ask myself: What am I NOT seeing?

Eilene

Spoiler Alert! and Review News



The official launch for *Fortune's Frenzy* was September 1. The day before, the *New York Times* published a review! I was blown away. Just being published is a thrill, but what an incredible feeling to be reviewed in such a prestigious venue.

I'll share the [article](#), but I must warn you there are spoilers, if you haven't read the book.

In addition, the Author's Guild has a [spotlight](#) for new releases with a Q & A.

And a wonderful writer whose work I much admire, Luanne Castle, did a [blog interview](#) with me about the book.

If you've had a chance to read *Fortune's Frenzy* (and especially if you liked it), I hope you will consider leaving a review online at [Goodreads](#), [Amazon](#), your blog, etc. It does help! Thank you so much.

Buy a signed copy of *Fortune's Frenzy*

Are you an aspiring writer?



Once upon a time...I had no clue how to write or publish an article, a blog, or a book.

The number one lesson: Don't let *anyone* discourage you.

The number two lesson: Seek out expert advice.

If you have ideas you want to share with the world, there are many ways to go about it. I'll use this space in each newsletter to offer some resources you may wish to consider, no matter what form of writing you aspire to.

This quarter I want to give a shout out to the writer's organization [Women Writing the West](#) (WWW). Despite the name, not all members are women. And even if you aren't writing about women in the west, you will find a supportive and educational group.

An agent at a publishing seminar recommended that every writer seek out a writer's group, particularly in one's genre. I don't recall how I found WWW, but I believe they were key to my publishing success.

Shortly after joining, I attended an online class to learn how to pitch my book. In October each year, they have a conference, online in odd years, in-person in even years. At the 2021 conference, I met the acquisitions editor for TwoDot and she invited me to submit my book proposal. The rest is history.

Even if you haven't completed a single article or chapter, you can benefit from belonging to a writer's organization. Many offer critique sessions, pitching opportunities, writing classes, professional advice, and more.

Popular Blog Posts This Quarter on Myricopia.com



It's Here!



From the Vault: Merit Badge



The Eckermann Ranch

Upcoming Events for Fortune's Frenzy



In conjunction with Maria's Bookshop, I will have my book launch at Durango's Rochester Garden 726 E. 2nd Ave.

Date: October 10, 2023

Time: 6 - 8 p.m.



If you live anywhere near Indianapolis, I will be attending the Indiana Historical Society's Author Fair this year.

2023 Holiday Author Fair

Saturday, Dec 2, 2023

12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana History Center 450 West Ohio Street,
Indianapolis, IN 46202

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