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Once By The Pacific: Laguna Beach in Poems and Pictures

Sarah Koops Vanderveen

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Sarah Koops Vanderveen : Once By The Pacific: Laguna Beach in Poems and Pictures before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Once By The Pacific: Laguna Beach in Poems and Pictures:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Living Deliberately By David Vanderveen "Hakama Glory Day" Cold, green-glass water. Little waves, the sun on my face and--ah! Dolphins.--Sarah Vanderveen, ONCE by the PACIFIC When my wife, Sarah, and I moved to Laguna Beach 10 years ago, we were surprised that such a small percentage of locals use the beach every day. To us, it was the reason for living here. It's easy to get caught up in the urgencies of life and completely miss the daily beauty of the journey. Potential future destinations can cloud our vision. Sarah and I force ourselves to be aware and focus on how lucky we are to live in this town every day that we are here. In January of 2010, my wife decided to create a dual mechanism that would force her to write every day and pay attention to where she lives. She would create a poem a day, take a picture (or find one) and blog about it to keep herself honest. She did it, and then spent another year editing and publishing that body of work into a new book that is just being released called ONCE by the PACIFIC. Some of the poems and images are whimsical--focusing on the beaches, local flora and fauna ("Coyotes" is one of my favorites) and some, more serious. There are two poems about former transient and honorary locals: "Cowboy, Rest in Peace" and "Heart and Torch: In Memory of Rick Griffin, an Honorary Lagunan if Ever There Was One" that are more serious. They are short, but they vividly share an experience nonetheless. Cowboy was a local hobo who was killed by a car in Laguna Canyon a few years ago. He was the most famous of our homeless set. The imagery brings me back to interactions with him in public places around town: "The

Icon of Heisler Park.the skinny, jangly, boot-wearing standard-bearer of the way things used to be: Cowboy, rest in peace. "Rick Griffin wasn't really a local Lagunan, but the famous hippy surf and rock artist visited and stayed at times. Sarah was able to access a photo of Rick from Easter one year that John Van Hammersveld allowed her to use." "I look at your eyes in a black and white photography, your hair and beard as wild as John the Baptist's might have been, and wish you could tell me what you're seeing now." "Life in our village has its serious moments and times that are transcendent. There are other days that seem like they are cut from an episode of Peter Pan. Sometimes local poetry can help remind me to be grateful." 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Gift By Jennifer Grant This book is beautiful and true. It's a book that incites its readers to reflect on connection, on the wonder of creation, on what it is to be a parent, a person in community, someone with eyes wide open. Whether you live on the beach or in the woods or in the city or down the street from a strip mall, this book will open your eyes to see what is beautiful in the landscape around you. You will open it and let yourself rest in it, again and again. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Ana Beautiful coffee book!

Laguna Beach became famous as an artists' colony in the 1920s, infamous as a mecca for hippies and surfers in the 1960s, and it still attracts free spirits and seekers of beauty. Among those inspired by its light, landscape and people is poet Sarah Koops Vanderveen. In *Once by the Pacific*, she captures the rhythms of real life in a much-mythologized place that is ultimately, in her words, quirky, lovely, and authentic. Also with work by world-renowned photographer John Van Hammersveld.

About the Author Sarah Koops Vanderveen is the former editor of the *Mars Hill*, a literary journal focused on the intersection of faith and culture. She is a member of Redbud Writers Guild and lives in Laguna Beach with her husband and two sons.