

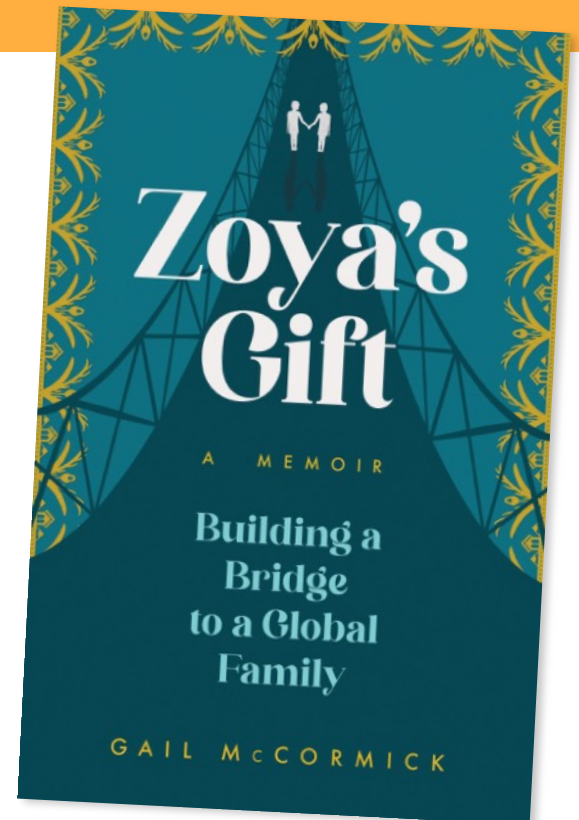
Pacific Northwest Writers Association 2022 memoir competition finalist

A story of healing from a devastating loss by weaving together a family of strangers with no common language, history, or culture.

Z O Y A ' S G I F T

A dream suddenly sparks to life when the heartbreak of infertility coincides with a nuclear explosion, bringing mayhem, magic and the Children of Chernobyl to Seattle. In this poignant memoir, author and psychotherapist Gail McCormick embarks on a life-changing relationship with eight-year-old Ukrainian twin sisters and a soul-making journey to storied cities and villages in Ukraine and Belarus. Behind the remnants of the Iron Curtain, she finds her place in a four-generation global family.

Written with humor, gravity, and hope, this heartwarming love story illuminates the joys, complexities, and healing power of reaching across the divides of culture, language, politics, and war. *Zoya's Gift* is an offering to those who hunger for meaning and resilience and is a testament to our potential to heal the past and shape the future. It confirms that which our hearts have always known: We belong to each other.



Gail McCormick is a Seattle author and psychotherapist with Midwest roots. An award-winning essayist, former newspaper reporter, and biographer, her work has appeared in the *Timberline Review* and the *Santa Fe Literary Review*. She is the author of *Living with Multiple Chemical Sensitivity: Narratives of Coping*, a book for and about people impacted by this environmental illness. McCormick has an MS in Community Counseling and a BA in Journalism. She volunteers her services to community organizations serving immigrants and others affected by dislocation and trauma. She is a proud honorary Chernobyl mother and babushka and lives with her husband in Seattle.



PRODUCT DETAILS

- **Publisher:** She Writes Press (June 11, 2024)
- **Language:** English
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Praise for “Zoya’s Gifts”

“A tender odyssey of the soul, by turns both personal and political, *Zoya’s Gift* is an intimate memoir of love and grief that shows how, with willingness and courage, there are many ways to create a family of the heart when a family of the womb was not to be.”

— **Jody Day, founder of Gateway Women and author of *Living the Life Unexpected: How to Find Hope, Meaning and a Fulfilling Future Without Children***

“*Zoya’s Gift* is a heartwarming testament to the magic that happens when strangers from different cultures without a common language between them, decide to choose each other as family. In this wonderfully crafted memoir, McCormick shows us that extraordinary gifts can emerge from the most unlikely connections when we move away from judgement and learn to celebrate our differences.”

— **Laura Maya, author of *Tell Them My Name***

“Gail McCormick’s memoir reminds any woman who has yearned for children of her own that there are many ways to ‘mother’.
When one dream ends, an extraordinary life may begin.”

— **Melanie Notkin, author of *Otherhood: Modern Women Finding a New Kind of Happiness***