

From louiseborden.com

I attended a small elementary school and that is where I became a lifelong reader. I read chapter books, biographies, and stories that took me far-away to other countries and cultures. I loved our school library and those shelves of books. So it is a thrill for me today to know that some of my books are being read by children in other libraries all over the country. I didn't know then, reading those books in the Lotspeich School library, that I would someday become a writer. When I was in third grade, I wanted to be a composer. I was taking piano lessons, and my teacher was Miss Cornn, the music teacher in our school. Everyone loved Miss Cornn, and I loved her especially because we shared a name. Her name was Louise



»Pictured above: Louise Borden at Chateau Feuga in Southern France where she traveled to research part of THE JOURNEY THAT SAVED CURIOUS GEORGE.

too. My idea about being a composer was short-lived as I could never learn to read music—much less write it, and after a few years, I gave up taking piano lessons. But Louise Cornn remains a key person in my elementary school memories. (And yes, her last name is spelled with two n's).

[The Journey That Saved Curious George](#)

Everybody loves Curious George, the mischievous monkey, but few know the harrowing story behind his creators' narrow escape from Paris just hours before the Nazis seized control of the city. In 1940, Hans and Margret Rey had to flee their home as the German army advanced. They began their journey to freedom on bicycles, pedaling to southern France with their children's book manuscripts among their few possessions. One of these manuscripts went on to become Curious George, the tale of that inquisitive monkey who is one of the most enduring characters in children's literature. The Reys' story is now told in dramatic detail in *The Journey That Saved Curious George*.

Writing picture books came much later—after studying history in college, getting married, and raising three children. Even though I didn't grow up to be a composer, I like to think that my picture books are almost songs because the sound of words and the poetry of my style are so important in the texts that I write. I work very hard at my desk, revising and revising and revising, trying to find just the right words that will be beautiful or fun to read.

Now it is hard for me to separate my writing from the way I live my life. My own family, personal experiences and friendships, as well as a love of history and travel, have rich and lasting connections to the

books I write. The first impulse to write a book is always triggered by something that has touched me indelibly. The challenge is to combine language with a story line that can stand up to countless readings.

Some of the stories in my books are made up, and others are true. A few of my books are non-fiction biographies. All of my writing comes from within: I care deeply about the people, the places and the events that I write about. I hope that all my books celebrate what I think is important, and what I care about in life.

