



Long Tall Sally
by Lori-Ann Murphy

Reeling in my 60's - Working on the movie "Bloodknot" in San Pedro, Belize and other far reaching casts.

I was sipping coffee in my favorite rocking chair from my screen porch at home in San Pedro, when the silence was broken with the sound of a screeching golf cart which stopped abruptly in my driveway. Three handsome guys pop out at once and said, "Are you Lori-Ann Murphy?" I replied with a long hesitation, "Yes." Quickly scanning my brain to see if I might be in trouble - it has happened, but no. They said they asked around to find my house and wanted to know if they could hire me for the Michael Douglas movie being filmed in San Pedro.

"It takes place in 1985 featuring a father and his relationship with his sons - they work it out during a fly fishing tournament in San Pedro." They said it was actually Michael Douglas that tagged the film, "Bloodknot." "We need you as our "Fly Fishing Technical Advisor and Picture Boat Wrangler."

I was getting ready to leave with my setter to Montana for our annual bird hunting and my hosting our Women's Yellowstone River Trip coming up next week! Needless to say, I took the job in early August and the fly fishing scenes are now wrapped up in San Pedro. I just landed back in the 'ol USA. Montana is stunning. All the rain has kept things green - and we are thankful for no smoke. The chilly air is shocking to our bodies but we are adjusting. Panga and I are at our favorite campground, in our cute little camper - savoring every sunrise and sunset. And we are excited to see new and old angling gal pals next week on the Yellowstone River!

The movie will be out sometime next spring. The screenplay was derived from Bob Rich's book, "Looking Through Water." I had an opportunity to hang out with Bob on the set daily. Bob's business, rich.com - a long time billionaire, he had his private jets bringing in crew and last minute "Billy Pate" tackle to keep it all authentic. He is very unassuming and looked like a big kid sitting next to the director for many fly fishing scenes. He was thrilled when my sidekick, Joseph - who flew down from Texas and put a hold on high school - caught and landed the bonefish used for the movie! I was like a big puffed up bird - very proud of my 17 y/o fishing buddy. All of these stories lead to early morning talks with Bob. And I was paying attention.

"Is there any family member that you have had difficulty with from your fly fishing career?" I chocked up with the unexpected question and my eyes immediately were filled with tears. "Yes" Out it came, just like that. "May I ask?", said Bob. "I wasn't aware that my reckless lifestyle caused pain." "Write about it," he said.

The first three years of my 60's had some extremely challenging times with the loss of five immediate family members. And then my marketing manager ran off with my mailing list which I have had since 1994 and then, to top it all off - I tried to open my now fly shop in San Pedro, Reel Belize, in March of 2020. Yeah. It's little wonder I've sought connection with God and mother nature and I'm eternally grateful.

I also believe in miracles - and one miracle was when Joseph walked into my fly shop at 14 and said he would work for free. "You're hired!" We had to put a hold on our fly shop and fishing plans but then when Belize's borders re-opened - we were back at it. We started fishing around

Ambergris Caye and I took him to Montana for two years to help with Reel Women Trips and to catch his first trout on the Madison River. We have many stories - which is fun.

Some nights at camp were filled with questions. Questions I'm still sorting out. I love Steve Martin and of course he has a few words on the subject of loss and change:

"I understood that as much as I had resisted the outside, as much as I had constricted my life, as much as I had closed and narrowed the channels into me, there were still many takers for the quiet heart. It's pain that changes our lives."

It's scary talking about tough times. We are not all prepared to be therapists for each other and that's not the plan - but it is good to pay attention to what drives us - renewing passion with each cast.

Ever since the "get go," Reel Women Fly Fishing Adventures has been so much more than fly fishing. As guides and instructors we can hammer home the "must do and know," but we all notice that very special feeling when it's time to say goodbye. We have shared our stories, our fears, our hopes and everyone leaves with a new or reminded confidence - that we are capable of making such a fun time happen.

Working on "Bloodknot," - I heard stories that I will share with you around the campfire from David Morse and how his father became "Captain Charlie." And working with Cameron Douglas - Michael Douglas's son who spent seven years in prison and has found sobriety - is just a flat out powerful person to be around. I was amazed at the honesty that came from these actors - who were embracing deep family struggle on screen - and their candid stories from their real life.

Fly fishing - who would have thunk it! - has brought to me some of my all time favorite people. There's something familiar about starting a conversation with, "I ran into George the other day - we had shitty fishing but had a great time." Or, "I just saw Jeanne and we are so looking forward to returning for the SLAM!" We learn that extended casts keep us full of hope providing a special connection with each other.

"Cast to your dreams!"

L-A

There's no better time to plan your fly fishing trip!

Are you ready to cast your worries away and reel in some unforgettable memories on the water? Look no further than Reel Women Fly Fishing Adventures, where we specialize in creating a safe and supportive environment for women to explore the joy of fly fishing. Our experienced and passionate team is dedicated to helping you improve your skills and experience the thrill of the catch. Whether you're a seasoned angler or just starting out, we welcome you to join us on and adventure with us and discover the incredible world of fly fly fishing. So grab your flyrod and let's hit the water together!



Joseph Curtis tying on the tippet from his live fish to David Morse's line. Bonefish landed, measured and released. Bob Rich talking with Captain Tomas about how it all went down.





Cameron Douglas before shooting his lobster trap scene. He locked right into the amazing sun set out on the flats.

[It's Back! Back to Basics Fly Fishing School with Reel Women Fly Fishing Adventures](#)

Ennis, Montana.

July 20-23, 2024

\$1795

All inclusive for 3 nights single occupancy lodging in cabins, all meals, 2 Day RWFFA School program, all fly fishing equipment and course material, lunch and snacks and certificate of completion.

[Space available for our world class Women's Guide School!](#)

Ennis, Montana

August 24-30, 2024

\$3995

All inclusive for 6 nights single occupancy lodging in cabins, all meals, 5 day intensive fly fishing course, fishing fees and use of any needed fly fishing equipment. Certificate of completion - that is earned and valued by our community.

Sign up for one of our Ennis, Montana Fly Fishing Schools!





Felicia with a nice baby tarpon. I'll see her next week on the Yellowstone River!

Reel Women Fly Fishing Adventures

presents...

Fly fishing the flats of Ambergris Caye, Belize

We have had a great time organizing amazing fly fishing packages for private groups. Special lodging packages are available in San Pedro, Belize and the [Reel Belize](#) guides are ready to take you to the fish! Summer fishing = great opportunity!

Some of the RWFFA Trip Availability line up:

[Permit Quest 24!](#) Feb 17-24, 2024.

[Tarpon Quest 24!](#) June 1-8, 2024.

[Tell me more about fishing the flats of Ambergris Caye!](#)

RWFFA

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2024 Schools

Women's Fly Fishing School: Back To Basics
Ennis, Montana
Limited space.
July 20-23

Women's Guide School
Limited to eight women.
August 24-30



[Sign me up for a RWFFA School!](#)

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Women's Permit Quest!

Ambergris Caye, Belize

All levels of experience welcome!

Bonefish, Permit, Tarpon, Barracuda and more...

February 24 - March 2

Women's Tarpon Quest!

Ambergris Caye, Belize

All levels of experience welcome - bring your game!

Bonefish, Permit, Tarpon, Barracuda and more...

June 1 - 8

Women's Madison River Trips

Ennis, Montana

All levels of experience welcome! Wild Rainbows!

July 13 - 19

July 27 - August 2

Women's Yellowstone River Trip

Emigrant, Montana

All levels of experience welcome! Big Browns!

September 14 - 18

[Request Trip Details](#)



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