

SHELDRAKE PRESS

AUTHOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Liz Cleere grew up in a house full of floor-to-ceiling bookshelves. When she wasn't pulling off random titles to read — anything from Trollope and Thackeray to Updike and Bainbridge — she spent a good deal of time trying to decide what to wear. She qualified as a chartered librarian and spent five years working in a research library for an engineering and architectural practice.

But the lure of fashion was too strong, so she gave up the world of books for a career in the rag trade. Fifteen years later she was UK sales director of the largest silk manufacturer in the world, and flying to Hong Kong every month.

Burnt out and bored with an industry that had lost its lustre — selling frocks wasn't any different to selling widgets — Liz quit the rat race to follow a dream. She sold her house and all her designer gear (but carefully stored her books in boxes). She learnt to sail and bought a yacht. Then she and her partner, Jamie Furlong, set off on a new life adventure.

In 2010 they sailed from Turkey to India, stopping in Egypt, Sudan, Eritrea, Yemen and Oman along the way. In India, when Liz began to recount her adventures, she discovered a knack for writing. She published a few articles and won some writing competitions, and she's even talking to a couple of publishers about writing a book on her adventures.

It's a well known fact that sailing plans are set in jelly, but Liz and Jamie are hoping to sail to Malaysia via the Maldives in 2013. You can read more about their adventures on <http://www.lizcleere.com/> and their joint blog, <http://www.followtheboat.com/>.