

The Long Arc of the Universe

"With pluck and insight, Stocking brings us colorful and revealing tales of travel that take us first to the California prison system, then to the mansions of San Salvador and the simplest homes of Guatemala. She journeys on to Europe and Asia, working with the Peace Corps there, returning between times to Michigan and her beloved Leelanau Peninsula. No matter where she is, along every winding road, she finds priceless moments of kindness and generosity, sometimes amid violence and poverty. In *The Long Arc of the Universe* her observations are made with the poignancy, humor, and magnanimity we have come to expect from Stocking's unique ability to combine intrepid curiosity with entrancing storytelling."

— LAURIE DAVIS

"In *Lake Country* Stocking radiates throughout northern Michigan searching history for her roots. No one gives us a better taste of the north."

— DETROIT FREE PRESS

"All of us are watchers—of television, of time clocks, of traffic on the freeway—but few are observers. Everyone is looking, not many are seeing. Rural America [as in *Letters from the Leelanau*] is what the twentieth century left behind and we sense a grave loss. Missing are the village elders and seers, the astute perceivers who interpreted life and effort through nature and the primal cycles from which the bulk of the population is now insulated. Kathleen Stocking is one of those seers and she is delightful."

— THE NEW YORK TIMES



Photo by Francie Gits
Leelanau Historical Society and Museum

The Long Arc of the Universe – Travels Beyond the Pale completes a trilogy. KATHLEEN STOCKING'S first book of essays, *Letters From the Leelanau*, is about her village and her second, *Lake Country*, is about her state. *The Long Arc of the Universe – Travels Beyond the Pale* explores other countries and cultures. In 1996, after receiving many writing awards, including a three-year writer-in-residence appointment in her village of Lake Leelanau through the Michigan Council for the Arts, Stocking was awarded a fellowship to the Blue Mountain Center for Artists and Writers. This in turn led to an appointment by the William James Foundation to work in the prisons of California, and led from there to several third world countries and other places, usually teaching, sometimes just traveling and living with people. *The Long Arc of the Universe – Travels Beyond the Pale* is Stocking's attempt to understand the larger world in relationship to Michigan's remote and beautiful Leelanau Peninsula.

Illustrations by Lynne Rae Perkins



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STOCKING

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Travels Beyond the Pale
by KATHLEEN STOCKING