



## The World In My Bones

The Diplomat Queens Made

### Blurb

What if you do everything right and still lose the life you worked decades to build?

I followed the path I was told would lead to stability and purpose. I went to college and fought my way out of Queens, shaped by a first-generation American upbringing in a Haitian household led by a single mother who modelled resilience long before I had the language for it. I learned early how to survive, how to adapt, and how to find joy anyway on New York City streets and in dreaming beyond my zip code.

That resilience carried me into a career in global diplomacy. I built a life in international development, serving on the frontlines of USAID and working across Africa and Southeast Asia to advance HIV and AIDS advocacy and public health resilience. For years, the vision was coming together. I finally reached the bridge to the life I had spent decades building.

Then the bridge collapsed.

This is not a story about a single failure. It is a memoir of endurance inside systems that quietly work against the people who serve them. As a Black woman in the Foreign Service, I navigated global health crises, shrinking aid budgets, institutional burnout, and the unspoken costs of leadership. At the same time, I became a caregiver to my mother as she entered dementia, returning emotionally and physically to the role that first shaped me. I loved through pain, carried responsibility while depleted, and continued to lead even as grief took hold. It was an education in how grief, responsibility, and leadership coexist.

But this is also a story about living. About having fun while overseas. About friendship, laughter, late nights, music, and learning how to belong in places far from home. About falling in love along the way and about discovering parts of myself that only emerged when I allowed joy to exist alongside duty.

This book examines what happens when leadership demands certainty while life offers none. When diplomacy is dismantled. When careers fracture. When caregiving collides with duty. When the second act arrives without warning.

It is also a story of movement, curiosity, and wonder. It is about growing up having fun in New York City and then falling in love with the world beyond Queens. It is about learning cultures through food, language, rhythm, and people. It is about how travel can be both an escape and an education. And it is about discovering that while escape is an illusion, building a life of meaning and purpose is not.

**Author** Jennifer Erie, **Genre** Memoir, **Date** February 2026, **Formats** Paperback, Hardback and ebook, 260 pages (Paperback)

Available at Amazon [HERE](#) (Paperback), [HERE](#) (Hardback) and [HERE](#) (ebook).

**Author Website** can be found [HERE](#)

**Reviews** (Amazon)

*This book is absolutely AMAZING!!! I found it hard to put the book down, it was such an easy flowing book, that captured me from the first page. The journey that the author took us on was both thoughtfully written and provided so much detail that I felt like I was there going through the journey with her.*

\*\*\*

*A must read for any aspiring diplomat or foreign aid worker, this book is half inspiration and half eye-opening account of how American diplomacy used to work. Written from the perspective of a first generation Haitian American, this book shows the importance of family, friends, and colleagues to the success of anyone working in this space. This was a page turner that I couldn't put down. It exposes the raw truth that this work requires a level of sacrifice and devotion that makes workers question if the work is worth it. I highly recommend this to new and aspiring foreign service officers, or anyone who will work in an embassy overseas.*