

Laurie, a marine geologist, has traveled extensively from the Arctic Circle to Saipan and beyond, conducting geophysical surveys. She has mapped thousands of kilometers by plane, boat, and foot. She has written *A Young Person's Field Guide to Finding Lost Shipwrecks* for her love of science and for the essential need for children to find a connection to themselves through math and science.

Laurie is a member of EAGE (Women in Geoscience and Engineering) and AGU (American Geophysical Union), and is a firm believer in giving back to the community by doing what you love. This is her first book.

To my daughter, Emily, who is more of a treasure than any shipwreck could ever hold.

Laurie Anne Zaleski

**A YOUNG PERSON'S
FIELD GUIDE TO FINDING
LOST SHIPWRECKS**

The Search for the Santisima

 **AUSTIN MACAULEY PUBLISHERS™**
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This is a work of creative nonfiction. The events are portrayed to the best of author's memory. While all the stories in this book are true, some names and identifying details have been changed to protect the privacy of the people involved.

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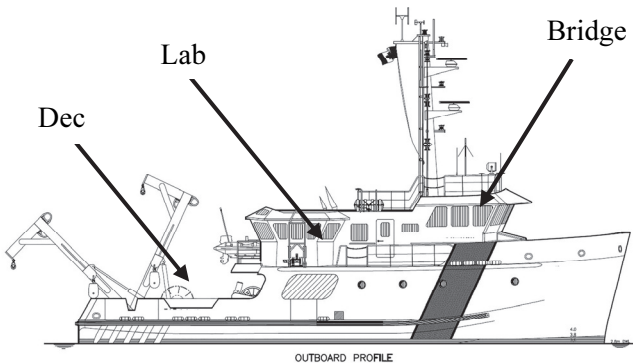
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Chapter 1

Trouble on the Bridge

Crud! The computer on the bridge is not working; I am looking at a black screen when I should be looking at a map, a nautical chart to be exact. There is little solace in that the screen is black and not blue. Black is better than blue. As you may guess a ‘Blue Screen of Death’ is not a good thing. Luckily, the computer broke while we are still at dock. It’s easier to fix things when we’re at dock and the nearest electronics store is only a car ride, not a boat ride away. Besides, things get bumpy when you’re at sea.



Blueprint of a Research Vessel (R/V)

Downstairs on the computer in the lab, I clearly see a chart of Cadiz, Spain with a series of parallel lines drawn along the coast. These lines make up a survey block. This particular survey block is where we will be exploring in hopes of finding a shipwreck. And not just any shipwreck, we are looking for the *Santisima*, the greatest warship of its time, which sunk in 1805 during the Battle of Trafalgar.

The captain should see the same map on his screen that I am looking at in the lab. He doesn't. We can't leave the dock until he does. All the systems need to be up and running. Precious time is ticking away. We only have the summer to work, when the weather is good, so let the troubleshooting begin.

I hope it's the monitor that's broken because if not, it's the cable. Changing a monitor is easy, but rewiring 100 meters of cable, about the length of city block, through the floor and walls of a boat is not fun. Being petite helps when working on a boat because you fit into tiny nooks and crannies. I am not a small person, but luckily Michelle is. Lucky for me that is, not so lucky for Michelle, as that means she does a lot of crawling through cramped spaces. She wears a bandana so bugs don't get in her hair.



What it's like to run cable on a boat.

After some trial and error, we cross our fingers as I power up the monitor with a quick flick. There is a green flash as it turns on, so far so good. After a few clicks and whirls – success. It's working. Fantastic, we can soon be underway.