

# Chicagoans of the year

As 2024 draws to a close, a look at the standouts in world of the arts. A+E

WINNER OF 28 PULITZER PRIZES FOR EXCELLENCE IN JOURNALISM

# Chicago Tribune

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2024

QUESTIONS? CALL 1-800-TRIBUNE



## The power of

In a groundbreaking project, University of Chicago researchers have developed a 'bionic breast' to restore the sense for patients who have undergone mastectomy.

By Angie Leventis Lourgos

"I just want to get rid of them both," Tubigan, now 40, recalled.

a life-changing moment. For the warmth of a hug to sexual arousal,



By Jae-Ha Kim  
Tribune Content Agency

In her latest novel, "How My Neighbor Stole Christmas," bestselling author Meghan Quinn sets up a holiday romance that takes place in fictional Kringle-

town. "Kringletown is not really based off of any town," said Quinn, 38. "I wrote a book called 'The Romantic Pact' that takes place in Germany. The couple travels down the Romantic Road and through all of the Christmas markets. I took inspiration from there, as well as the mountain towns in Colorado that I love so much. The only place I've been to during the holiday season is New York City. I'll be honest — there's something about Christmas in the city that is incredibly magical."

Quinn, who grew up in Southern California, resides in Colorado. This interview with Quinn has been edited for clarity and length.

**Q: Your book's protagonists don't initially get along. Would you ever want to travel anywhere with Cole or Storee?**

**A:** You know, I don't think they would be good travel companions. They're both homebodies. They wouldn't want to go anywhere, but I would make them go with me to Germany to visit all the Christmas markets!

**Q: How do you separate vacations from work trips?**

**A:** This is tough for me because I'm usually always on deadline, so there isn't much separation. If I do

### CELEBRITY TRAVEL

## What she learns on trips aids her stories



Author Meghan Quinn said she would love to visit Germany's Christmas markets. MILANA

have to work while on vacation, I tend to try to get work done early in the morning and then I spend the rest of the day relaxing.

**Q: Was any of this novel written on a plane, train or automobile?**

**A:** "How My Neighbor Stole Christmas" was written while on tour in April. Six cities in six days and I wrote 30,000 words that week. I traveled from California to Colorado, to Texas, to Missouri, to Ohio, to Alabama — the entire time listening to Christmas music and carrying around my kid's book, "How the Grinch Stole Christmas."

**Q: Do you prefer warm or cold weather vacations?**

**A:** When I'm at home, I prefer the cold. But when I go on vacation, I need all of the warm weather. My favorite place to go is Hawaii. There's something in the air there that just makes you relax.

**Q: Where would you like to go that you have never been to before?**

**A:** I would love to go to Germany during Christmas time and experience the holiday spirit. Greece is also on the bucket list, as well as Italy. And, of course, Iceland. I need to see the Northern Lights. And Finland during Christmastime as well.

**Q: What trip you took as**

**a child stands out in your memory?**

**A:** When I was in high school, my parents took us to Idyllwild in the San Jacinto Mountains of California. We stayed in a cabin and completely disconnected from all electronics. We read books and played cards and just enjoyed each other's company. Easily my favorite vacation ever with the family.

**Q: What's the most important thing you've learned from your travels?**

**A:** That there are people from all walks of life. I love people-watching, listening to conversations that don't belong to me and immersing myself into other people's lives because it's fascinating. Everyone is so different in their own way and I love learning and observing so I can apply it to my stories.

**Q: What is your guilty pleasure when you're on the road?**

**A:** I always like to find a bakery and try something new: a cookie, pastry, cake. Anything that sounds interesting to me. When I was taking a tour through the Highlands, we found a little bakery in a small town and purchased this jelly biscuit. I still think about it till this day. So good.

For more from the reporter, visit [www.jaehakim.com](http://www.jaehakim.com).