



# JOHN STRELECKY

## #biography

John Strelecky is a #1 Bestselling inspirational author. His books have been translated into over forty-five languages and sold more than twelve million copies worldwide.

They have won bestseller of the year awards nine times and collectively spent more than one thousand five hundred weeks on bestseller lists, including more than four hundred weeks in the #1 spot.

John's entry into the world of writing began following a life changing experience when he was thirty-three years old. From that, he was inspired to sit down and tell the story shared in his first book - *The Cafe on the Edge of the World*.

Within a year after its release, word of mouth support from readers had spread that book across the globe - inspiring people on every continent, including Antarctica. It has been a #1 Bestseller in multiple countries.

John went on to write many other books including sequels to "*The Cafe on the Edge of the World*", the "*Big Five for Life*" series of books, and more.

When he isn't writing, John is often outdoors in his kayak, riding a surfboard, playing beach volleyball, or traveling the world with his family. Their longest adventure was a year-long backpacking trip to see animals in the wilds of Africa, Malaysia and Australia.

## Early Life

Strelecky was born and grew up in the suburbs of Chicago, Illinois. He attended St. Joseph High School in Westchester, Illinois and upon graduating, enrolled in Embry Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Florida. He completed his aviation training and spent two years working as a pilot before failing the medical exam for United Airlines due to a previously undiagnosed heart condition.

In interviews, Strelecky has called this one of the lowest points in his life. "I had been working since I was twelve years old. All the jobs no one else would do. Two and three jobs at a time during the summers. In addition to working at night while I was in college, I would take up to twenty-one credit hours per semester, because everything after fifteen was free. After doing all the things that were supposed to be 'right,' it was all taken away because of something I had no control over."

Strelecky's low point continued when a year and a half later he applied and was denied admittance to the prestigious Kellogg Graduate School of Management at Northwestern University. In response to a note on the bottom of the denial letter, he called the school and was informed that his denial was due to a "lack of significant work experience." Strelecky sent a letter to the admissions office explaining what it was like as a pilot, with people's lives on the line moment by moment. Six months later he was admitted to the program.

Following his Costa Rica experience, Strelecky returned to the U.S. and spent five years as a management consultant to large companies, ultimately leaving that in 2002 to pursue his love of travel. During that year, he backpacked around the world, covering more than three times the circumference of the earth.

Upon his return, he was inspired to write his first book, “The Cafe on the Edge of the World”. The success of that title inspired him to continue writing, including three sequels to “The Cafe on the Edge of the World”, “Life Safari” which is in part based on his travels in Africa, “The Big Five for Life” series, and many others.

## Inspiration for First Book

In 2002, after spending a year backpacking around the world, Strelecky re-entered the world of management consulting, but found his interest in the work was gone. While sitting on a plane coming back from a client engagement, he wrote out the start of a speech to answer the question, “What would I tell someone right now is the meaning of life?” The next day he sat down at his computer and started what turned out to be a twenty-one day stream of conscious typing experience.

In interviews Strelecky has explained, “I never thought about what I was going to type, or even read what I had typed the previous day. I just let the words flow from somewhere, through my fingers, and onto the screen. It was a very surreal experience.”

At the end of the twenty-one days, Strelecky knew the experience had ended. What was on the pages turned out to be his first book, originally titled “The Why Are You Here Cafe”. He initially published the book on his own. After it sold more than ten thousand copies across twenty-four countries in less than a year, he was signed by a literary agent.

The book hit its first best-seller list in Singapore, then Taiwan. It continued to draw attention from readers and media around the world as publications in different languages were released. When it was released in French Canada in 2009 under the title “Le Why Café”, it raced to #1 on the best seller lists, outselling all books in all genres over a four week stretch.

In 2015 in Germany, following the release of “The Cafe on The Edge of The World” sequel, the title rose to the #1 position, eventually becoming bestseller for nine straight years.