FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

No Commitment, No GPS, $20 a Day: A True Story of Crossing Africa.
Swimming in Air, a literary memoir about love, uncertainty, and a year-long 1987 crossing of Africa, will be published October 15, 2026.

MENLO PARK, CA — Parker Griffon's literary memoir *Swimming in Air*, a true story about commitment, independence, and the grace the world offers when we listen to our lives, will be published on October 15, 2026, in paperback, hardcover, and Kindle editions.

Vivian, a linguist from Argentina's German colony, believed every relationship had an expiration date. Parker, a Silicon Valley physicist, believed love didn't exist. They agreed: no commitment. But when their careers pulled them to opposite sides of the Atlantic, they put both on hold for a year and set off across Africa.

In the pre-digital world of the late 1980s, they traveled from Cairo to Cape Town on $20 a day, with a backpack apiece and no plan past the next border. No GPS, no internet, only telexes and a guidebook.

A park ranger on Mount Kenya assured them that the lion that ripped through their friends' tent was simply confused. Their friends were inside. A soldier with an assault rifle, who looked about fourteen, studied Vivian's passport upside down. A man who crouched by the roadside for hours was "visiting his sister" in spirit, and sometimes came back with fine gossip.

Their agreement started to unravel.

In Malawi, Vivian sent Parker away to London for a job that wanted him more than he wanted it. She stayed behind, alone in a tent, with sixty dollars because of a bank transfer that hadn't arrived.

Then she got malaria.

Parker Griffon said, "Every generation asks whether you can have independence and commitment, a career and adventure without giving up one for the other. Vivian and I went looking for our own answer."

Susan MacDonald, founder of Printers Inc., Palo Alto's legendary independent bookstore, says, "An unexpected encounter can shape a lifetime. Where *Swimming in Air* begins does not prepare us for how it ends. Read it for its honesty, for a taste of foreign lands, or for the love story. You will not be disappointed."

Book details

TITLE	***Swimming in Air***
AUTHOR	Parker Griffon
GENRE	Literary memoir; travel; love story
SETTINGS	Munich, 1986; Cairo to Cape Town, 1987 to 1988; Buenos Aires, 1988; Berkeley / Palo Alto, California 1989-1990
PUBLISHER	Corrientes Publications
PUBLICATION DATE	October 15, 2026
LENGTH	334 pages
FORMATS AND PRICES	Paperback $19.95
	Hardcover $29.95
	Kindle $4.95 (launch price, first 90 days)
ISBNS	Paperback: 979-8-9998392-8-2
	Hardcover: 979-8-9998392-1-3
	Kindle ASIN: B0HFT8XGB1
WHERE TO BUY	Amazon; bookstores and libraries through IngramSpark's distribution network; parkergriffon.com
TRADE ORDERING TERMS	55% discount; returnable

INTERVIEW TOPICS:

- Traveling across Africa before GPS and the internet
- What happens when independence, love, and career ambitions collide
- The practical realities of crossing Africa on $20 a day
- Grace as what's given when nothing is owed: found when learning to listen to your life.

REVIEW COPIES AND INTERVIEWS

Digital review copies (PDF or EPUB) and physical copies are available on request. Parker Griffon is available for interviews.

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