



## **Katie Standefer**

### **Class of 2003**

After graduating from Hersey in 2003, Katie attended Colorado College, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology and English (Fiction Writing) in 2007. She went on to earn her MFA in Creative Nonfiction from the University of Arizona in 2014. Since then, she has spent time in Wyoming, Colorado, Arizona, and New Mexico. She has earned numerous awards for her writing. A University of Arizona Writing Program Fellowship and crowdfunding sources helped support research of her newly released book *Lightning Flowers: My Journey to Uncover the Cost of Saving A Life*.

Katie's book tells her story of being diagnosed with a heart condition in 2009 while having no health insurance. Needing a defibrillator could cost thousands of dollars, and thus Katie's journey began. Soon she realized that there was a bigger cost to the defibrillator – her own peace of mind and the environmental toll of the device. She takes us on a worldwide journey in search of answers to her dilemma, at the same time keeping us abreast of her personal life.

Her new book received rave reviews from the [New York Times](#) and [Oprah Magazine](#) (#9). Congratulations to Katie on a fantastic accomplishment!