

*Coastal Bridges: How We Get Home*

University of Georgia Press  
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Nancy Grayson / Acquisition Department,

First, thank you for spending a few moments on the phone with me. I'm sending to you my treatment of the bridge idea I proposed to you over the phone.

As a magazine writer—and freelance, at that—I'm in a constant state of creating new angles, and pitching new ideas. For as you may know in the magazine realm, it's difficult to recreate the wheel. So among the truly creative ideas we writers bite into, we must find new spins, research those rusty potentials, then tap the shoulder of those publishing enterprises. To that end, I am presenting an idea rooted in history and photography.

1. *The Coastal Bridges: How we get home.*

Through beautiful black and white photography, and the book size one finds on coffee tables, this record of history traces South Carolina's specialized bridges, focusing on those charming bridges that draw (bascule) or rotate (swing span).

To get home, or to a vacation destination along the coastline, these bridges close for the many land rovers crossing, and open for sail, motor and barge vessels gliding by. The pause between openings reminds visitors and residents why so many chose to live along the patient, flowing coast.

The copy and photography for *The Coastal Bridges: How we get home*, will present (in the vein of "lighthouse" texts) the dates of construction, and perhaps architects and architecture; times of trouble when hurricanes, fog and mechanical difficulties threaten safe passage; the political climate, when their up-to-60-years-in-age cause the SCDOT concern, and tax payers more dollars to keep them safely moving; and finally, their place among the landscape.

Bridge attendees (some having operated the same bridge up to 30 years) have stories of shrimp vessels coming back empty, dolphins playing in waters in which they breed, barge accidents, people who've jumped, and of course the beautiful boats that glide by. These attendants are perched for hours above the low-country landscape watching migration. Including their hurricane stories, I believe only a handful of the attendees are interesting enough to have weight beyond a paragraph or two. Their anecdotes can provide more areas for me to research. Too, they can provide significant character to each bridge. (Keeping in mind, however, many publishers are not interested in publishing personal memoirs or autobiographies.)