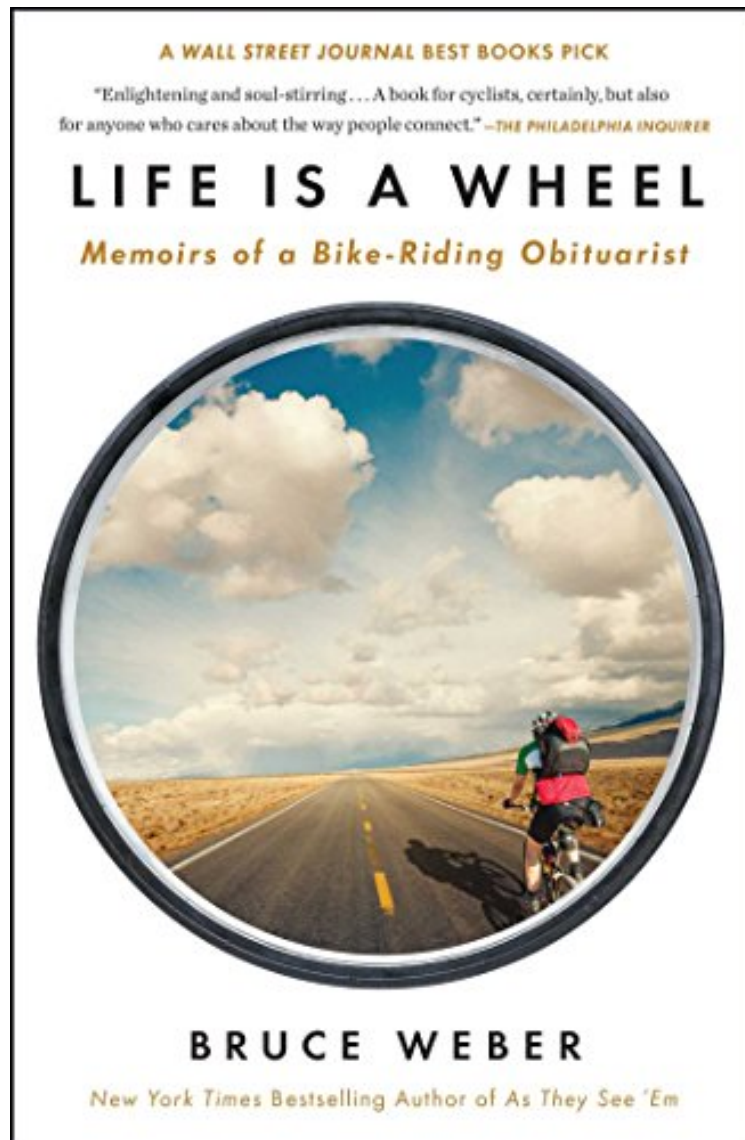


(Download) Life Is a Wheel: Memoirs of a Bike-Riding Obituarist

Life Is a Wheel: Memoirs of a Bike-Riding Obituarist

Bruce Weber

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Bruce Weber : Life Is a Wheel: Memoirs of a Bike-Riding Obituarist before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Life Is a Wheel: Memoirs of a Bike-Riding Obituarist:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The Wheel of Life Goes Where You Direct It To By Captain Iguanal won't waste your time with a long, worn out, bloated explanation of why I gave Life Is A Wheel... a total of 5 stars. I would have given it a 4 7/8 because near the beginning I was exasperated at his tell "off the bike trip stories of his life". Then I realized how important they were to his trip and the memories his cycling dredged up. The title does

include "Love, Death, Etc." and it encompasses a wider aspect of Weber's life than just a daily account of a bike trip. Written with skill and touches of brilliance, the memories and actual account of his ride are a rich tapestry of a man's life, loves, heartbreaks and woven with such insight that I was constantly saying, "Yes, that's the way it is with me too". This is a book that has kept me up nights reading slowly so that I didn't miss a thing. Superb writing and excellent presentation. This is far more than a travelogue of a bicycle trip; this is a glimpse into a man's heart and mind. An intellectual gift to those who are lucky to buy, read and feel along with the author. Do yourself a favor and do not skip by this work of art. Remember to fill your time with experiences that are actually worth having and at the end of your life and at the finish of this book you will have no regrets. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. What a great read. I felt I was riding along with ...By Auntiejean What a great read. I felt I was riding along with Weber, especially in the first half of the book. (Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana are so familiar to me that I knew every road and town on his route until he entered North Dakota). I applaud his motives, his effort and his writing. I loved his view of the terrain, the changing weather and the people he encountered, his passing thoughts on life, death, friendship and love. He has a journalist's eye, coupled with a memoirist's introspective point of view--at times self-deprecating (or at least very honest and modest), and always a bit humorous-engaging. This is a travel story, an interior meditation, a reminiscence, an adventure of a very personal sort that will take you along for the ride. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Inspirational By carrierussell When the book arrived in the mail I had forgotten why I had ordered it. I am not a cyclist or even a sports enthusiast. Maybe it was because the author was an obituary writer. In any event, I thoroughly enjoyed the book and in particular his discussions about what motivated him at age 57 to take another cross-country bike trip. I am terribly curious about why anybody takes on such challenges, and especially where, as in the case of Mr. Weber, the actor has nothing to prove -- he had already done it once in addition to numerous other long-distance rides. Well written and easy to read. It has made me think about my own life's narrative as well as inspiring me to consider tackling some of my own challenges I have tended to deny.

Life Is a Wheel chronicles the cross-country bicycle trip Bruce Weber made at the age of fifty-seven, an entertaining travel story filled with insightful thoughts about life, family, and aging (The Associated Press). During the summer and fall of 2011, Bruce Weber, an obituary writer for The New York Times, bicycled across the country, alone, and wrote about it as it unfolded. Life Is a Wheel is the witty, inspiring, and reflective diary of his journey, in which the challenges and rewards of self-reliance and strenuous physical effort yield wry and incisive observations about cycling and America, not to mention the pleasures of a three-thousand-calorie breakfast. The story begins on the Oregon coast, with Weber wondering what he's gotten himself into, and ends in triumph on New York City's George Washington Bridge. From Going-to-the-Sun Road in the northern Rockies to the headwaters of the Mississippi and through the cityscapes of Chicago and Pittsburgh, his encounters with people and places provide us with an intimate, two-wheeled perspective of America. And with thousands of miles to travel, Weber considers his past, his family, and the echo that a well-lived life leaves behind. Part travelogue, part memoir, part romance, part paean to the bicycle and part bemused and panicky account of a middle-aged man's attempt to stave off, well, you know Life Is a Wheel is a book for cyclists, and for anyone who has ever dreamed of such transcontinental travels. But it also should prove enlightening, soul-stirring, even, to those who don't care a whit about bikes but who care about the way people connect (The Philadelphia Inquirer).

From Booklist In 1993, at the age of 39, Weber rode from coast to coast on a bicycle. Eighteen years later he decided to repeat the task, and his account of the journey from the Oregon coast to Manhattan is a delightful, insightful saga that combines the genres of travelogue and journal of self-discovery while paying tribute to the joy and value of cycling. Weber readily acknowledges that, at 57, he lacked both the physical and mental stamina he possessed on his first crossing. As he indicates, cycling is hardly the serene activity of romantic lore; it requires intense concentration and an ability to constantly draw upon physical reserves. Yet Weber clearly retained his sharp powers of observation as he describes the changes he saw in the nation, from the ubiquitous use of cell phones to changes in the political climate. What hasn't changed, thankfully, is Weber's ability to be awestruck and inspired by the power and beauty of the landscapes he traverses. This is a thoughtful and thoroughly enjoyable road story that will appeal to both cyclists and the more sedentary. HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY: The popularity of Weber's New York Times series chronicling his bike trip will translate into great interest in the book version. --Jay Freeman Enlightening, soul-stirring, even, to those who don't care a whit about bikes but who care about the way people connect - strangers, friends, parents and children, lovers. (Philadelphia Inquirer) [Weber] manages to be both expressive and enigmatic, inclusive and solitary a rider in the world, coasting through the landscape, sometimes participating, always observing. (New York Times) Delightful... any reader looking for a well-written and entertaining travel story filled with insightful thoughts about life, family and aging will not be disappointed. (The Associated Press) Riding a bike across the country is hard work... focusing on the beauty of the country he passed through the kindness of the people he met, and his own musings on life, love, and death... Readers will enjoy going there with him. (The Boston Globe) "This title is a cross-country trip every reader can enjoy. VERDICT: Weber's journey is sure to inspire readers to roll their old bikes out of

the shed and plan an epic trek of their own." (Library Journal) Weber's trip and his thoughts are distilled into a read that is both entertaining and thoughtful. (Christian Science Monitor, 10 Best Books of March) Weber's memoir has an air to it that reminds me of Richard Ford's novel *The Sportsman* Looking back, looking forward, making sense of what we face now. Or as he says as he pedals a stationary bike back in his gym after his trip, the present is where you want to be. Never wish away distance. Never wish away time. (The Minneapolis Star-Tribune) "Weber never fails to entertain, and his compulsion to always move forward despite the weight of the past is as inspiring as his astounding cycling achievement." (Publisher's Weekly) Weber's pedalogue is a one-word case study of highs and lows: Gulp. Damn. Yikes! So... Whew! Ommmmmm. Arrrrgh. Ha! Sigh. Cool! Yikes! Arrgh. Whoa! (The Charlotte Observer) Cover to cover this book is a great ride. Bruce Weber is an entertaining and absorbing travel companion and in *Life is a Wheel* he pulls off a master storyteller's trick. He gives us a very personal journey that resonates on every page as part of the universal journey we're all on. Its great writing and reading. (Michael Connelly) Kerouac claimed that the romance of the American road died with the completion of the interstate system, but Bruce Weber proves him wrong, and on only two wheels. *Life is a Wheel* is an engaging blend of adventure and autobiography, a courageous journey over the breadth of the country and the distant terrains of the past. (Billy Collins) It's about the bike to a point. Taking us along on a challenging and deeply personal journey, Weber shares memories, hopes, and emotions as rich and complex as the American landscape he conquers. (David V. Herlihy, author of *Bicycle: The History and Lost Cyclist*) About the Author Bruce Weber, a reporter for The New York Times, began his career in publishing as a fiction editor at Esquire. He has written for numerous publications and is the author of the New York Times bestseller *As They See Em: A Fans Travels in the Land of Umpires*, coauthor (with Savion Glover) of *Savion! My Life in Tap*, and the editor of *Look Whos Talking: An Anthology of Voices in the Modern American Short Story*.