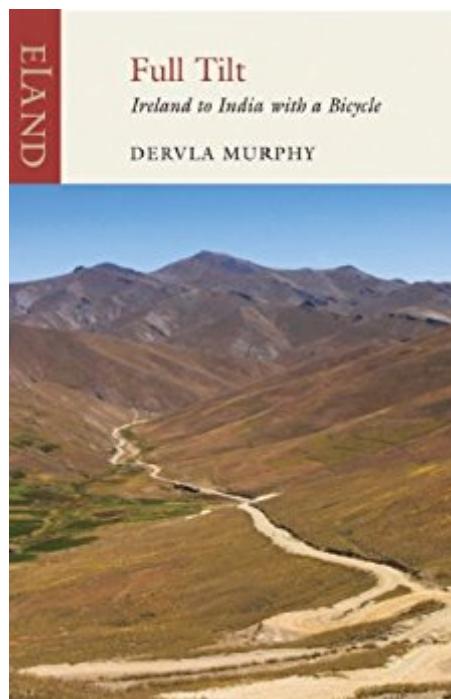


The book was found

Full Tilt: Ireland To India With A Bicycle



Synopsis

When Dervla Murphy was ten, she was given a bicycle and an atlas, and within days she was secretly planning a trip to India. At the age of thirty-one, in 1963, she finally set off and this book is based on the daily diary she kept while riding through Persia, Afghanistan and over the Himalayas to Pakistan and India. A lone woman on a bicycle (with a revolver in her trouser pocket) was an almost unknown occurrence and a focus of enormous interest wherever she went. Undaunted by snow in alarming quantities, and using her .25 pistol on starving wolves in Bulgaria and to scare lecherous Kurds in Persia, her resourcefulness and the blind eye she turned to personal danger and extreme discomfort were remarkable.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Reading this books is a fascinating way to travel with Dervla through central Asian and into India, circa 1962. I really enjoyed her eloquently stated commentary and the philosophical insights into her observations. I think I will have to agree about her on the political boundaries and on ancient vs. modern civilizations. This is also an excellent snapshot of that part of the world in 1962. Obviously a lot has changed since then. Riding a bike from Ireland to India, what a magnificent feat in itself! Her

observations and reflections on the ancient, remote cultures she comes across in Afghanistan and Pakistan are recorded very beautifully and emphatically. She strives to consider all perspectives and in the process adds many dimensions to the story of her travels. Her books is full of deep insights that I think a lucky few in the world will have the opportunity to conclude themselves. As a previous reviewer has put it, "Why isn't Murphy more famous?" I wonder the same! My only guess is that perhaps she hasn't made the rounds on the American circuit... where the mass media machine is more far reaching and dominating. Overall the books is beautifully written in my opinion. Being a native South Asian myself, and having lived in the high peaks of the Himalayas, I find it to be a really interesting foreign perspective on our cultures. Her prose are even more relevant today as swift modernization has really done more harm than good to the indigenous peoples at least on the Indian side of the mighty Himalayas. Meanwhile, war has taken its toll on the Pakistani/Afghani side. If you are reading this, thank you Dervla, for sharing your beautiful journey with the world. It is an inspiration.

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