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## On a Bicycle Made for Two

*Anna Green, Howard Green*

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**Anna Green, Howard Green : On a Bicycle Made for Two** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised On a Bicycle Made for Two:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Riding up hills is difficult, but worth the effort By Andrew K. Kingston I've read this book through twice now - most recently a couple of weeks ago. I loved it all over again. Synopsis: Anna and Howard Green, a young British couple decide to take up posts as Christian missionaries in Nepal. But in order to spice up their adventure (as if it needed any more spice), they decide to journey to their Himalayan destination via tandem bicycle. Hmmm - why not? Yes, their friends and family thought they were crazy too. France, Italy, Greece, Turkey, Iran, Pakistan, India and finally Nepal - it's an amazing journey packed full with historical and cultural observations, nerve-racking dilemmas, fascinating characters and plenty of humour. The negatives: \* obscure references - I have a fairly good general knowledge but I couldn't keep up with a lot of the references to Classical history, French expressions and architectural jargon. For the average reader, the Biblical references would probably fall into the same category. These references can either function to stretch your awareness of the world, or annoy the heck out of you. \* inconsistent grammar - Anna and Howard aren't sure how to refer to themselves. For most of the book it's "we" talking (I still can't figure out if one of them was more of a driving force behind the book), but then they lapse into the third person - "Anna did this", "Howard thought that". But maybe that's just me. I'm not really sure how they could have handled this better. \* it's no work of literature - you won't be blown away by clever prose. The style is fairly functional - informal but not intimate. The positives: \* just the whole radical

idea of it. I mean - how cool! Riding a tandem from London to Nepal!\* cultural insights - Anna and Howard Green are sensitive but frank cultural observers and I found myself learning a lot about the countries they travelled through.\* the Christian angle - the Greens are completely unselfconscious about their spiritual beliefs and motivations - not defensive or pushy at all. Their beliefs seem to sit very comfortably with their identities and life choices. Often Christians in books come across as either pious prudes with no relationship to reality, or people who section off their spirituality to church on Sunday and are otherwise unaffected. Neither extreme is here. It's fairly unique to read a travel story written by unapologetic Christians for a general audience. It's surprising really, because missionaries are travelling overseas all the time - maybe they usually just write for a Christian publishers and audiences, or are too busy saving souls and helping the needy to write. So, yeah - treat yourself to a good read. Worth the effort.

When Cambridge graduates Anna and Howard Green were called to missionary work in Nepal, they decided to cycle all the way from their home in south east London - on a bicycle made for two. They took a tent and spares for the bike, and saved valuable packing space by sending ahead twelve sets of spare tyres. There was no room for a stove, and their only luxury was their tiny spranino recorders. The tandem endeared them to almost everybody they met, making for an informative and often hilarious time that enabled them to reflect deeply on the differences between their own beliefs and behaviour and those of the different cultures they encountered. This book combines the thrill of unconventional travel with the authors' own deep Christian faith; it includes a map of the entire route and eight pages of photographs.