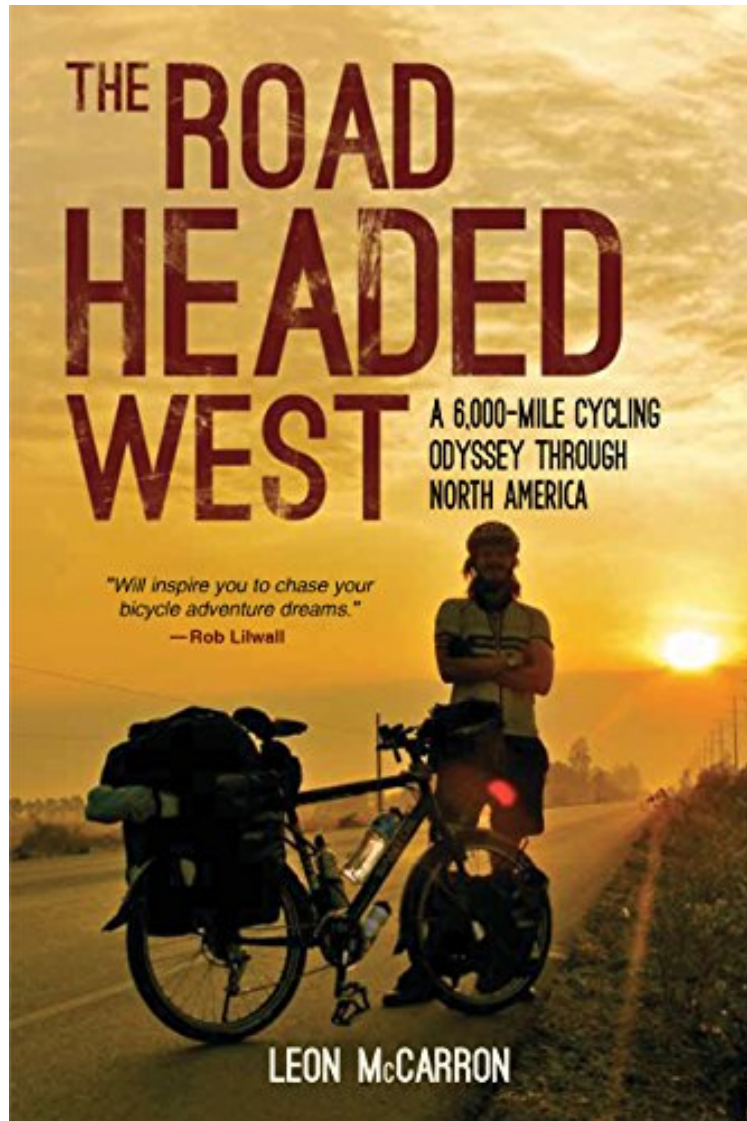


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The Road Headed West: A 6,000-Mile Cycling Odyssey through North America

Leon McCarron

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Leon McCarron : The Road Headed West: A 6,000-Mile Cycling Odyssey through North America before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Road Headed West: A 6,000-Mile Cycling Odyssey through North America:

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy donna pachmanGreat book. My son loves it2 of 2

people found the following review helpful. Lightweight yet readable. By bioboy59A pleasant tale of a young man at loose end in the midst of the 2008 recession who decides not to be idle. Along the journey across America he grows a bit learns a bit and tells us a bit about it. I am not sure that what the author brings to the genre warrants a book though. The history is sparse. The geography, natural history are sparse and flawed. His knowledge of where he is and where he is going strangely vague. But he got on a bike and road to a new calling, and I enjoyed the trip with him. 4 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Written for the Euro-market By B. Davis This is a typical travelogue - occasional humor and unique observation, mostly stuff you'll find in other books of the topic/genre What the single star reviewer noted and I will recapitulate here, is this author has youthful blind spots. On one page he will say things like "Glad too that there is still enough curiosity in the Americans psyche to draw so many others to such wild spots (referring to Yellowstone) - implying a certain dimwittedness - and yet says this not a paragraph later "A horribly busy visitor centre greeted us at a fork in the road and we were outraged at having to pay six dollars for a jar of peanut butter." So let me get this straight - Americans, as a generality, are not curious, while this Irish contribution to the planet can't seem to see why market forces would cause peanut butter to be x3 expensive in one of the most busy national parks in the country? Why thank you Leon for the pleasant compliment followed by a demonstration of your astute understanding of supply/demand. A question for you Leon - why not stock up on peanut butter when its cheap? This is not the only example. Leon also goes into Canada without his updated visa documentation and wonders why he's given the 3rd degree when he returns. Yea it was excessive what happened to him - and completely avoidable. Apparently since one can walk between any Euro-country, logically it must follow this applies to all countries! I enjoyed his perspective thru New York, but after that it was generally downhill. I would hope someone who did a similar ride would get progressively more enlightened and stop focusing on such petty issues. But hey, the victim card is popular.....

What happens when you swap the nine-to-five for two wheels and a journey of a lifetime? Terrified of the prospect of a life spent behind a desk, without challenge or excitement, Leon takes off to cross America on an overloaded bicycle packed with everything but common sense. Over five months and 6000 miles, he cycled from New York to Seattle and then on to the Mexican border, facing tornados, swollen river crossings, wild roaming buffalo and one hungry black bear along the way. But he also met kind strangers, who offered their food, wisdom, hospitality and even the occasional local history lesson, and learned what happens when you take a chance and follow the scent of adventure. With a sharp eye and a genuine go-where-the-wind-takes-me attitude, McCarron makes for an ideal guide on this cycling adventure. He passes through small towns, rolls up and flies down the winding roads of the Blacks Hills is taken in and fed by strangers, all on a quest to discover the real America, and in the process, learn a little about himself. Funny, insightful, and full of life, *The Road Headed West* will inspire readers to chase their dreams and go off in search of adventure.

"McCarron's engaging odyssey reveals that 'travel only teaches you how much you don't know.' For wanderlusts of all ages." Booklist "Thoughtful and insightful.... Don't even think twice about buying this book. Buy it now." Library Journal "Will inspire you to chase your bicycle adventure dreams across the long highways and epic mountains of America." Rob Lilwall, author of *Cycling Home From Siberia* and *Walking Home From Mongolia* Fast-paced, funny and introspective. Adventure Travel Magazine A witty and charming adventure that will be loved by all, except maybe if you are from Iowa! Mark Beaumont, author of *The Man Who Cycled the World* A wonderful rite-of-passage journey; one that shows what exciting experiences can lie in wait if you choose to set off in search of adventure. Alastair Humphreys, National Geographic Adventurer of the Year 2012 Leon McCarron makes for a very likable Irishman on a bike. On his roaming-wherever-the-fancy-takes ride he sheds the weight of his worries. Josie Dew, cyclist and author "McCarron is great company, amusing and wise beyond his years (yet still retaining the wide-eyed nature of youth)" 220 Triathlon Magazine Website "The result is both inspiring and frequently funny." Outdoor Fitness, August 2014 issue