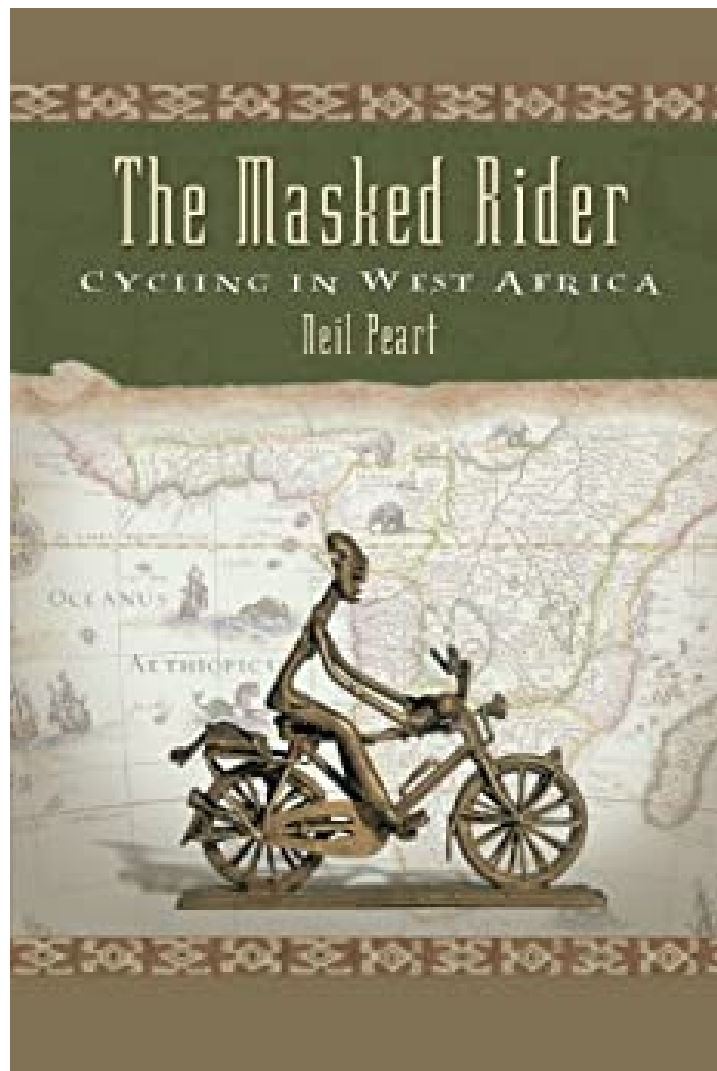


The Masked Rider: Cycling in West Africa

by

Neil Peart



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Synopsis

Dysentery, drunken soldiers, and corrupt officials provide the background for Neil Peart's physical and spiritual cycling journey through West Africa. The prolific drummer for the rock band Rush travels through African villages, both large and small, and relates his story through photographs, journal entries, and tales of adventure, while simultaneously addressing issues such as differences in culture, psychology, and labels. Literary and artistic sidekicks such as Aristotle, Dante, and Van Gogh join Peart and his cycling companions, reminding the reader that this is not just another travel book—it is a story of both external and introspective discovery and adventure.

Sort review

About the Author Douglas Henderson Jr. was born and raised in the Bronx, New York. He attended the prestigious Horace Mann School, annually recognized as one of the nation's finest private schools. He was graduated from Lehman College, which is part of the City University of New York (CUNY). He was also graduated from New York Law School, where he earned his J.D. degree. Henderson has had an eclectic employment career. In addition to working for Jimmy Connors, he was a top-notch administrator, one of the first Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Coordinator's in the New York State Supreme Court, and is credited with being a guiding force in spreading the ADR program throughout the state. While in law school, Henderson worked in the poorest section of his native South Bronx to help its residents gain meaningful employment. In addition to working for a law firm, Henderson was the Director of Operations for a private Manhattan company, where his duties included running the business, head researcher and co-hosting the company's top-rated radio show. He has since gone back to his roots and is involved in helping residents from his beloved Bronx find gainful employment. Henderson is single and lives in the Inwood section of Manhattan. He is heavily involved in mentoring the youth, and is a busy public speaker. He is a prolific reader and has written for a variety of publications. He is an avid golfer, playing on both the public courses in his beloved Bronx, as well as the finely manicured private courses throughout Connecticut. --This text refers to the paperback edition. Review Selected By The Official Wimbledon Site as The 3rd of Its Top 5 Tennis Books for 2012. Wimbledon 2012 - The 5 Best Wimbledon Books March 21, 2012 With Wimbledon 2012 not far away, there is no better time than now to get into the mood for two weeks of classic tennis with five great tennis books. From insight into the lives of Wimbledon champions to books that show you what it takes to become a champion, here are five books that you should check out. Endeavor to Persevere A typical African-American growing up in the Bronx in the late 60's, author Douglas Henderson Jr. tells the story of how his life changed upon discovering tennis and becoming close to Jimmy Connors. As a close friend and confidant of the famous tennis pro, Henderson would meet other legendary players like Arthur Ashe and Bjorn Borg as

Henderson became privy to the behind the scenes world of tennis from the mid 70s to the 90s. --
This text refers to an alternate kindle_edition edition.

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What people say about this book

Bill Polk, "Unparalleled author.. First, Neil Peart was an amazing author as well as an incomparable drummer. His ability to convey the places he visits and sights he sees is like no other. After the tragic loss of his daughter and later his wife, Neil took off on his motorcycle on the "Healing road". Conveying in his letters to friends and his travel journal the pain he was dealing with, how his travels were key to his recovery, documented in his book "Ghost Rider: the healing road". After having reading several of his books, one can see that his ability to convey the sights, interactions, and people of the adventure is done in unprecedented detail. Though very well read and eloquent, Neil speaks in such a clear and pure language, the reader feels like he's there riding right along by his side. An amazingly talented, kind, unassuming man. One of a kind. RIP"

EB in Ca, "A dated book, but a great read.. Peart did a great job keeping notes on his journey, and he was able to put together a wonderful tale that brings us along on this small-group trek through Cameroon. Delving into his personal quest to live through Cameroon's sights, smells, music and the people he meets let us peer into the mind of a truly great talent. Even his humanity is on stage as he internally deals with a rider who drags the group down, the unease of encountering checkpoints with heavily armed forces with dubious motives and even the catcalls and overt racism he encounters as a true minority Anglo in an African country. Most travelogues don't get this deep, but Peart brings us along for the ride, both in the saddle and between his ears. We've all faced adversity of one type or another, and Peart's diplomacy when faced with frustrating situations is a lesson I will take away and use myself."

jmoonx14, "Just a Man on a Harrowing Journey!. This book surprised me. Yes, I am a huge Rush fan and I have the utmost respect for Neil Peart. However, I read this based on my love of cycling and have a keen interest in the adventures it brings as well as the grueling nature of long touring on two wheels. So my expectations were that this would be a focus of the book. There was some of this but not so much in a technical nature and not much content was dedicated to that directly. I was not disappointed but realized I had assumed incorrectly. The direction of the book is much more of an over all experience of the journey and the education received along the way. Cultures, interpersonal relationships, conflict both large and small, sympathetic reactions, tempers and personality conflicts. I was also impressed with the very open and honest comments made throughout (some of which were really surprising coming from such a mild mannered author). Peart is never personal about his criticisms as most of it is internalized....that is to say how he reacts to situations and people along the way. He can be judgmental at times but in his shoes I think anyone would be. He approaches the trip (and prose) as just a guy on a bike and not as a world renowned lyricist and drummer. As you can well imagine the tour taken here by a small group of strangers was difficult and it tested wills. However, the writing focuses

on the authors means of taking it all in, being patient when there was none to spare, being assertive when required and remaining a strong individual as a member of a team. From *The Masked Rider* you will gain an insight to the author and you will probably think twice about taking such a journey. Mosquitos! Filthy floors! Sketchy toilets! Wonderful people! A great read for anyone. Well written, open, honest, entertaining and very educational. Kudos to Neil Peart who clearly absorbed much about African culture and history which he shares key portions of to make the book much more internationally engaging. I have read reviews that state he did not enjoy the trip and I disagree. He focuses on the difficulty of many aspects of it yet he never misses a moment to share in the grandeur of Africa and many of the interesting/perplexing/crafty/wise people who call it home. He certainly knew it was going to be a challenge which is why he took the journey to begin with and he got just that. Highly recommended."

Ebook Tops Reader, "Stepping back. This was Neil's first book, written several years before his next one (and which I'd read first, "Ghost Rider"), and provides a flashback that shows a bit of the person that Neil was. Set in the context of his cycling trip through West Africa (Cameroon), you get to see some of the country and people from a much more interesting and in-depth vantage. No tour bus, hitting all the tourist traps and staying at hotel with all the modern amenities, the small group cycles through the countryside and spends the night at villages along the way. You get a glimpse into the lives of the people there, but it's also a somewhat superficial one, as the language barriers (Neil doesn't speak French fluently, and most of the Cameroonians don't speak English beyond a few words or phrases they've picked up) prevent much in the way of dialog. The cycling group also never seems to gel, the disparate personalities keep them from being anything more than temporary travelling companions. I would love to read a similar book about other trips that he's taken, where he develops more of a relationship with his companions just to see how things differed. Neil recognizes how he does contribute to the overall stand-in she's of the group, but as he travels and comes to have epiphanies about their various personalities, it doesn't seem to make much impact in how he related to them. He mentions Steinbeck's quote about allowing others to help you here as well, but "Ghost Rider" also never has long-term travelling companions like he does here, so it's not clear if he's changed much in that regard. He's pretty frank about the challenges and day-to-day issues with the trip, including bouts with the local microbiota, and while a trip like this is (sadly) probably never in the cards for me for several reasons, it did remind me of some half-formed plans to spend the turn of the century on safari with my best friend. We never did that, but graduation for my oldest is approaching, and maybe in a few years I can convince my wife that this would make a great gift for her."

fantsci-fi, "Hooked !!! . A damn good read, and what an informative read as well , will certainly read the others , thanks NEP:"

Howard M., "Nicely written.. Nicely written, good descriptions and attention to detail. And, of course, the world's greatest drummer."

Mushypea2112, "better than I thought. I found it an interesting read , better than I thought"

Mr. P. J. Ducey, "Five Stars. All as advertised"

Mr. K. M. Harrison, "Five Stars. pleased with the item"

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