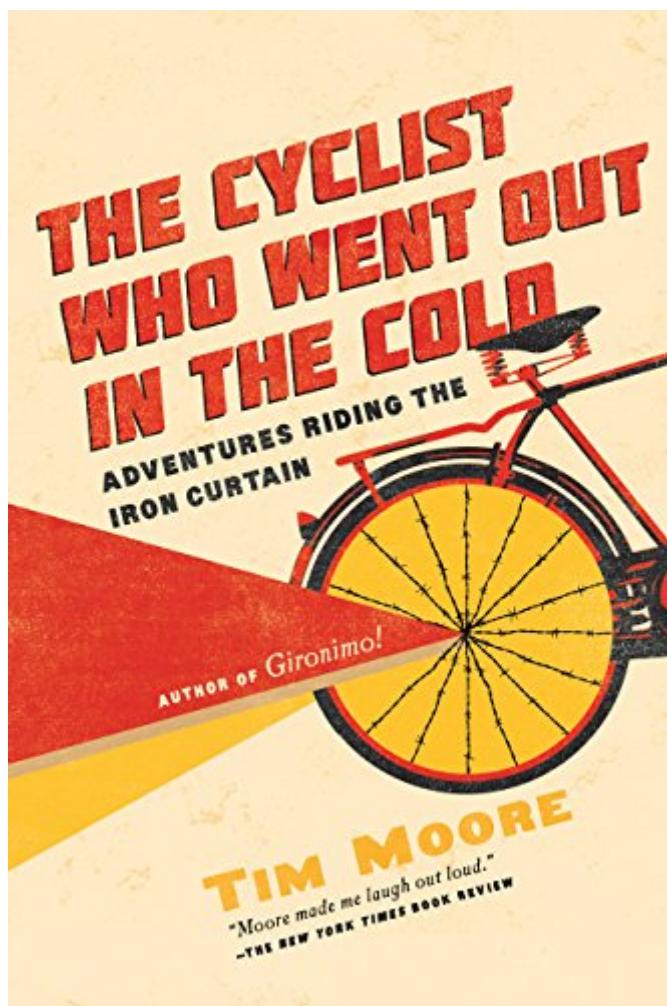


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The Cyclist Who Went Out In The Cold: Adventures Riding The Iron Curtain



Synopsis

Tim Moore and a rickety metal steed are back together—riding the entirety of the Iron Curtain, where history, mechanical failures, physical endurance, and humor come together for "the Bill Bryson on two wheels." Not content with tackling the Italian Alps or the route of the Tour de France, Tim Moore sets out to scale a new peak of rash over-ambition: 6,000 mile route of the old Iron Curtain on a tiny-wheeled, two-gear East German shopping bike. Asking for trouble and getting it, Moore sets off from the northernmost Norwegian-Russian border at the Arctic winter's brutal height, bullying his plucky MIFA 900 through the endless sub-zero desolation of snowbound Finland. Sleeping in bank vaults, imperial palaces and unreconstructed Soviet youth hostels, battling vodka-breathed Russian hostility, Romanian landslides and a diet of dumplings, Moore and his “so-small bicycle” are sustained by the kindness of reindeer farmers and Serbian rock gods, plus a shameful addiction to Magic Man energy drink. Haunted throughout by the border detritus of watchtowers and rusted razor wire, Moore reflects on the curdling of the Communist dream, and the memories of a Cold War generation reared on the fear of apocalypse—at a time of renewed East-West tension. After three months, twenty countries and a fifty-eight degree jaunt up the thermostat, man and bike finally wobble up to a Black Sea beach in Bulgaria, older and wiser, but mainly older.

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Customer Reviews

Well written and very insightful. Five stars!!! He also has a great sense of humour and doesn't take himself so serious.

What more could you want? Comedy, sort-of history and an enjoyable travel log. Different feel than Geronimo but just fun to read.

Fascinating , with a good historic perspective. Very amusing and inspiring.

Very funny report, and a lot of history of the various countries that lie along the former Iron Curtain.

Does not flow very well.

Cycling insanity through snow, ice, angry villagers, drunken drivers, award worthy pot holes, language failures, dark ruins, mad dogs, hunger and extreme physical exhaustion. Insane it might have been, but it was the best non trip IÃ¢â€¢ve taken. The historical knowledge and visions were better than any history class IÃ¢â€¢ve attended. The reality of the aftermath of the communist cold war is not something I had ever even thought of before. The best part, I didn't get a sore bum riding the trail. This was my first Tim More adventure and it will not be my last. This was a dark trip through history, there is little light to be found in that history. Mr Moore brought some lightness with his brisk humor and honesty. His observations are not something I think I would notice on a trip, I enjoyed his views very much. I would suggest reading this while googling the places to see the landscape he traveled it is amazing,

Too much detail about the bicycle-too little about the people and culture. Don't have another 8 words to add now or time to do it.

I really enjoy arm chair travel and this was a fun cycling trip through Eastern Europe. The author battles weather, history, borders, bad roads, hunger and still manages to keep going with a sense of

humor. Not only did I travel to some new to me countries I also learned a lot of cold war history. The landscape described is rather dark and depressing but I still found the journey interesting. The writing is very good and the author does a great job. Enjoy this humorous cycling journey through many forgotten areas of Europe from the comfort of your favorite armchair.

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