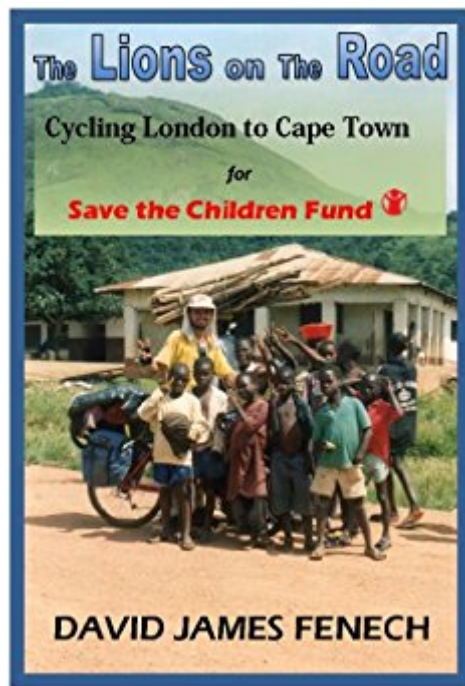




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The Lions On The Road: Cycling London To Cape Town For Save The Children Fund



Synopsis

The Lions on the Road is an epic tale of a lone Canadian who bicycled from London, England to Cape Town, South Africa in the early 1990s to raise funds and awareness for Save the Children Fund (STC). The story begins with how the idea to complete a charity bicycle tour came to be, then elaborates on the planning stages of the tour and finally chronicles it until its completion. It details the involvement of local and national media outlets and the emotional rollercoaster Fenech rode in gaining corporate sponsorship thus providing a cautionary tale for anyone wishing to navigate through the quagmire of obtaining corporate support. Brushes with wild animals, political upheaval, military confrontations, mechanical failures, debilitating illnesses and death-defying road conditions are documented with humour and in a style that makes this a page-turning 19,000 kilometre adventure. He gives emphasis to the beauty of the African spirit by interweaving tales of acts of kindness, patience and generosity of strangers from the indigenous Africans to the missionaries and the foreign aid workers on assignment. In essence, this story is a loving tribute to these countless individuals who offered him assistance and taught him that it is better to light a candle than to complain about the dark. Last but not least, this story highlights some of the important work that African and foreign organizations like STC do to ease the suffering of so many. This is why a portion of the sales of this book will be donated to Save the Children Fund International.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

More like 4.5, but David's a buddy, so I rounded up. :) So the following review is a little biased as, essentially, I was hearing David's voice all the while I was reading, and it seemed I was traveling right along with the guy, through the border checkpoints, sitting in on mealtimes, and conversing with fellow cyclists.. The story was more than a little bewildering at times, and several times I caught myself thinking "Geez, he did all *that*?! His sense of humour shone through in places and more than once I found myself chuckling at David's reactions at what this daunting road trip threw at him: Flat tires, mechanical failures, physical challenges, adventures with wildlife, and... border guards. The trip was far from smooth and a couple of times I wondered how he ever managed to finish his journey. David cycles across a *continent* in this sprawling real life adventure. Not only a story about his resolve to raise awareness about some very worthwhile groups in Africa, it's also about the kind people who he met and helped him accomplish this amazing feat, their unquestionable goodness and charitable nature, and faith in the power above. Well documented journal/travel log of David's trials and tribulations during his cycling adventure, and I very much enjoyed traveling with him through the written word.

The reader is privileged to ride along with David on his cycling adventure from London to Cape Town. On the way we encounter the kindness of strangers, the joys of new experiences, the heartbreak of injustice and the physical and emotional pain of cycling over 19,000 kilometers. David's faith in God to protect and guide him through this journey is sometimes scary. As he comes across situations where a mere mortal would turn and run David proceeds putting his full trust in a higher being to watch over him. To his credit he always comes out the better for it, having experiences that he would otherwise not have had. And because of that we get to have that experience by proxy.

Loved this book from beginning to end. It an inspiring book of human kindness both of the author and the people of Africa who helped him on his way. Having lived in Africa all my life I felt as if I was with him every step of the way. He captures the beauty of the people, sights and sounds of Africa but especially the heart of its people.

Dave keeps you interested in his experiences all the way through; his humour and kindness are evident in every chapter. The book is well written and a must for anyone thinking of undergoing a cycling tour - anywhere!

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