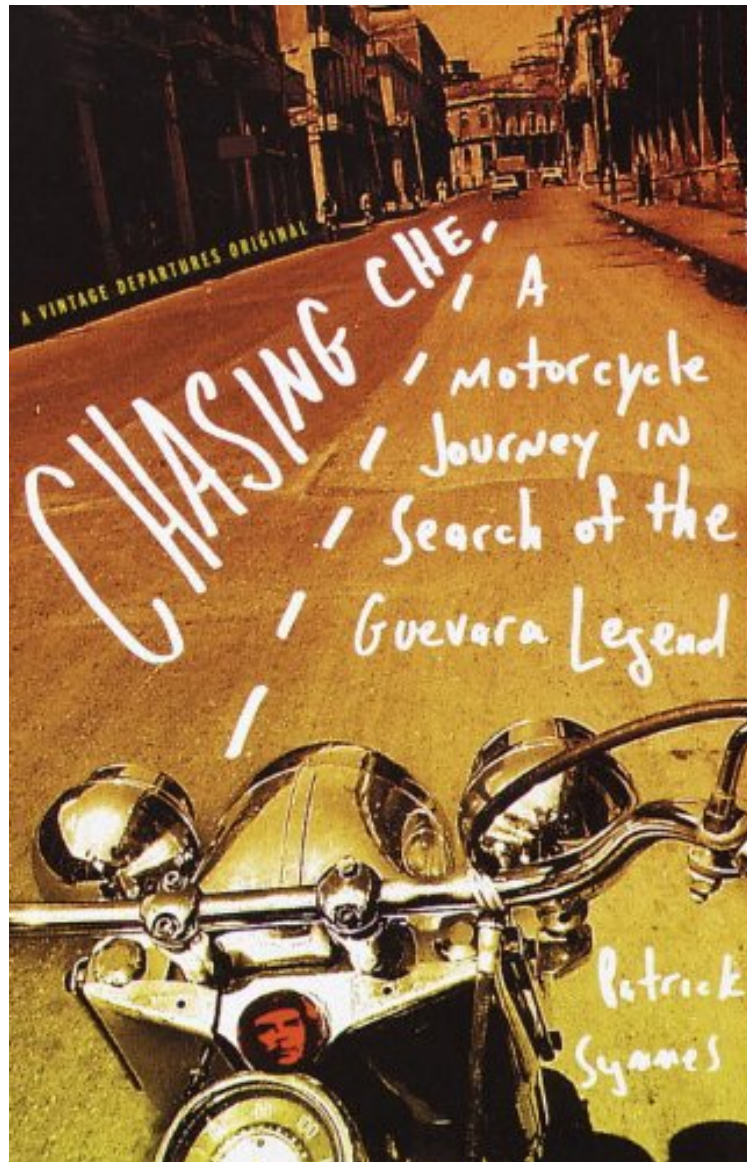


Chasing Che: A Motorcycle Journey in Search of the Guevara Legend

Patrick Symmes

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#922928 in Books Patrick Symmes 2000-02-15 2000-02-15 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x .70 x 5.20l, .54 #File Name: 0375702652320 pages Chasing Che A Motorcycle Journey in Search of the Guevara Legend | File size: 38.Mb

Patrick Symmes : Chasing Che: A Motorcycle Journey in Search of the Guevara Legend before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Chasing Che: A Motorcycle Journey in Search of the Guevara Legend:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. "He that travels in theory has no inconveniences" Samuel JohBy fdoamericaA journey, unlike a trip, often awakens something within a person that has been dormant. To journey is to see other worlds, to experience other cultures and to acknowledge your own connectedness in this transitory world. In 1995 Patrick Symmes left on a motorcycle journey across South America to chase the ghost of Ernesto Guevara -- 'Che'. In this absorbing travel journal Symmes retraces 'Che's' 1952 South America motorcycle adventure. He knocks on the doors of strangers, turns over rocks and does detective diligence. Yet, as Symmes found out, chasing ghosts can be extremely arduous, especially if the haunted house has been torn down and replaced by condos. In the last fifty years South America has morphized, and all that is left of 'Che' is his legion and what has been printed on T-shirts. Symmes' writing is provocative, informative and enjoyable: "Chasing curves over a swelling landscape, a motorcycle enters the pure expression of physics and is bound to the road in a way no car will ever know. The raw force of the engine is not hidden beneath a hood, but alternately purrs and grows a few inches from the knees, demanding the consciousness of power. A rider on two wheels can taste moments of oneness with the road." I have spent the past 9 years traveling in South America and Symmes' writing captures the distinct spirit of the people of Argentina, Chile, Peru, and to a lesser degree Bolivia. The search for 'Che' is the golden thread (or for you bikers, the tire tread) that keeps this travel journal on track. Especially enjoyable is Symmes' history of each of the countries that he travels through. Highly recommended for those that are going to visit South American and students of Ernesto Guevara. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. It was really striking how little seems to have changed ... By Michael It was really striking how little seems to have changed in Latin America have changed since Che made the same journey some 40+ years before. It was enjoyable to read the interviews and conversations with the people Che and Alberto met on their journey. I would suggest that anyone interested in this book read Motorcycle Diaries first because Patrick refers to it often in his book. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. One good journey deserves another... By Tony Theil Almost 50 years after Che's Motorcycle Diaries, Symmes recreates the journey on a BMW-R80. Covering over 10,000 miles of open road and experiencing several mechanical breakdowns as well as roadside disasters, Symmes masterfully inspires the traveler within us to break away and move on. Near the conclusion of his trip he makes an assertion, "This moment of life, alone at dusk in the rain at twelve thousand feet with nothing, is still enough... I could live through the rain and the darkness and the bad roads and everything I owned disappearing into the bottom of a cloud. But I could not live without this trip, without some movement. In a life of restless longing, the only hope lies somewhere ahead."

Intrepid journalist Patrick Symmes sets off on his BMW R80 G/S in search of the people and places in Ernesto "Che" Guevara's classic Motorcycle Diaries, seeking out his own adventure as well as the legacy of the icon Che would become. Symmes retraces the future revolutionary's path. And on the way he runs out of gas in an Argentine desert, talks a Peruvian guerrilla out of taking him hostage, wipes out in the Andes, and, in Cuba, drinks himself blind with Che's travel partner, Alberto Granado. Here is the unforgettable story of a wanderer's quest for food, shelter, and wisdom. Here, too, is the portrait of a continent whose dreams of utopia give birth not only to freedom fighters, but also to tyrants whose methods include torture and mass killing. Masterfully detailed, insightful, unforgettable, Chasing Che transfixes us with the glory of the open road, where man and machine traverse the unknown in search of the spirit's keenest desires.

.com A motorcycle trip in 1952 marked a turning point for Ernesto Guevara Lynch de la Serna, a medical student returning from a journey into poverty and oppression with a vision of guerilla-style change and a new name, Che Guevara. Going on to help overthrow the Cuban government, align himself with Castro, and become elevated to martyred hero status when he was executed in Bolivia in 1967, Guevara's likeness is now commercialized and captured on T-shirts, castanets, and watches. New York writer Patrick Symmes embarks on motorcycle tracing Guevara's route through Argentina, Bolivia, Peru, Chile, and Cuba, seeking insight into what Guevara experienced and what his political movement wrought. Meeting with those who knew the young Che--among them a lover, a leper, and his motorcycle traveling cohort--proves interesting enough, though rarely insightful since some were children at the time, some are confused, and others refuse to talk openly. More revealing are Symmes's travels on his bike, nicknamed La Cucaracha. He winds through both Buenos Aires' high society and Peruvian poverty, finding a fragmented country where revolutions have brought mountain peasants fleeing to shanty towns, and where blind idealism coexists with blatant denouncement of the violent tactics used by Cuban Communists, even by Che's most respected soldiers. Beautifully written, the stories that unfold here reflect the complex contradiction that endures in Latin America three long decades after Ernesto "Che" Guevara's death. --Melissa Rossi From Publishers Weekly In 1952, a 17-year-old, prerevolutionary Che Guevara lit out with a friend on a motorcycle trip through Latin America. It was, as he wrote in his Motorcycle Diaries, a journey that would shape his attitudes toward politics, people and revolutions. Symmes, a freelance travel writer, traversed the same route in 1996, with entertaining and illuminating results. Fluidly moving between the past and the present, he tosses out observations about Che's expedition while chronicling his own adventures. In Argentina, Symmes encounters a defensive German who insists he is not a Nazi; in Chile he visits a

utopian settlement founded by a wealthy and radical environmentalist; in Peru he visits a leper colony, the same one Che visited in 1952. Refreshingly, Symmes avoids digressions of self-discovery, instead letting his book serve as a primer for recent Latin American history and his own take on the region. Symmes's prose, like the Latin America he writes about, is spotted with gems. He says pointedly, "The funny thing about a dictatorship: it was great for culture. If there was one sure way Pinochet could support poetry, it was by staging a military coup." Unsentimental and funny, this book combines the spiritedness of a gonzo journalist with a serious reporter's sense of purpose. First serial rights to Talk magazine. (Feb.) Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal The last two years have seen a resurgence of interest in Ernesto (Che) Guevara, the Argentine-born Cuban revolutionary. Several biographies and numerous books have added significantly to our knowledge about this important 20th-century figure. Now Symmes, a journalist, contributes an account of his attempt to re-create Che's 1952 eight-month motorcycle journey across Argentina, Chile, Bolivia and Peru--a trip that has been called the seminal, radicalizing event of Guevara's life, the inspiration for his politics and life work as a revolutionary fighter. Although Symmes set out on the trip eager to discover the early Che, the one who wasn't involved in revolutionary activities, he ends up writing much more about himself than about Che and more about current issues in Latin America than about the 1950s. Of interest to libraries with travel collections.-Mark L. Grover, Brigham Young Univ. Lib., Provo, UT Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.