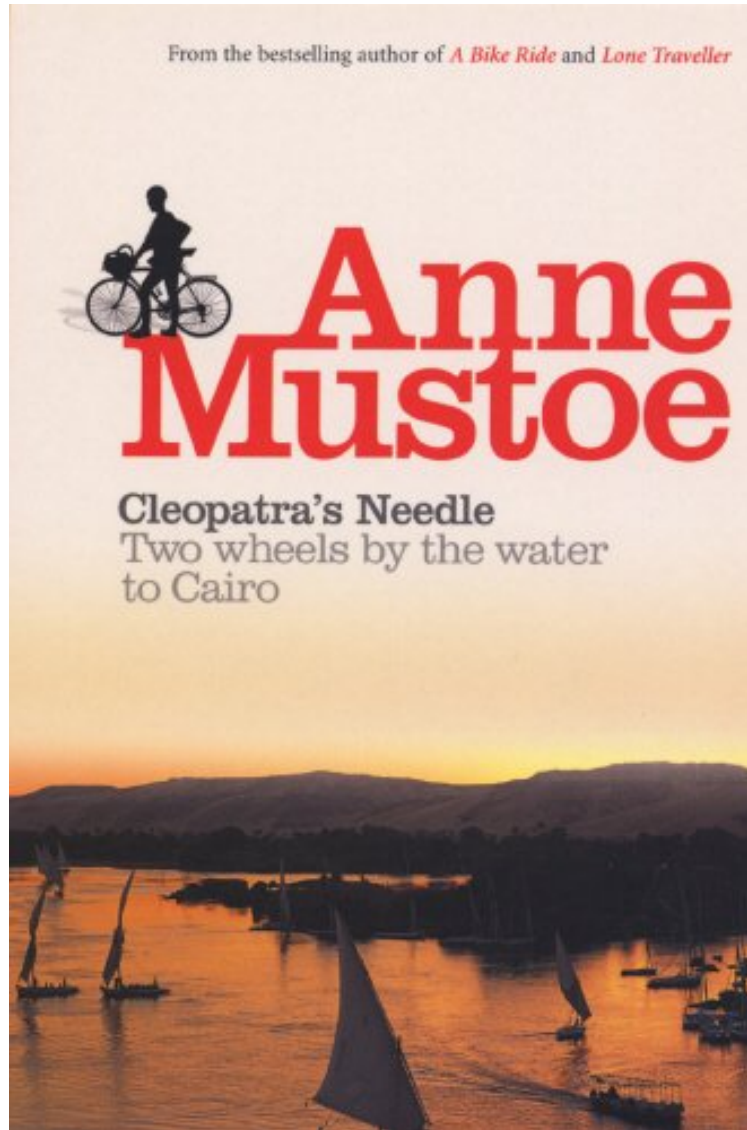


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Cleopatra's Needle: Two Wheels by the Water to Cairo

Anne Mustoe

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Anne Mustoe : Cleopatra's Needle: Two Wheels by the Water to Cairo before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Cleopatra's Needle: Two Wheels by the Water to Cairo:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Travelling with Anne again By June Anne has a long ride this time, following the route of Cleopatra's needle to England. She has many hardships on this journey, mostly caused by continuous rain, which would be very difficult to manage on a bicycle. She also has some health problems and this made the journey more difficult. Through it all she shows a remarkable tenacity and strength. Her accounts of the countries she visited are as usual very concise and interesting. She managed to retain her good humour and interest in

her surroundings even though she was wet and cold. I continue to admire Anne Mustoe and her travels. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Cycling through history By Maggy Hunter At first I found this book most enjoyable. The author has extensive knowledge of the history of each region through which she cycles. Unfortunately, it does tend to wane as her knowledge of history far exceeds her knowledge of bikes - she just rides them or it (Condor). Not sure if it was too much detail or the author's daily travails and not enough the bike, but I never finished this book, nor did a friend. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Really liked this book By Betty Grissom Really liked this book.. She reminds me a little of Dervla Murphy, although I don't think anyone can beat Dervla's early books.

Beginning on a blustery April morning at Cleopatra's Needle on the Thames Embankment in London, Anne Mustoe set out on another of her phenomenal lone cycle rides this time to the Needle's original site at Heliopolis in Egypt. She set herself the challenge of journeying wherever possible near to water - via the Seine and the Rhone, then alongside the Burgundy canal, the Po and the Venetian Lagoon - inspiring her to think of her mode of transport as a set of 'waterwheels'. Leaving Europe, Ms Mustoe entered a very different terrain: the dusty and at times chaotic world of the ancient near east. Countries such as Turkey, Syria and Lebanon and, not least, Egypt itself, the site of the final waterway the evocative Nile. Her incident-packed journey made this the best and worst of rides and Ms Mustoe's eloquent but no-nonsense prose is immediately accessible, giving the reader a clear picture of this remarkable excursion. Woven in with fascinating and educational information regarding the history and culture of every point en route are also accounts of outrageous misfortune. Undaunted by roads and bridges washed away by freak floods; robbery in the backwater of Bari; an old knee injury flaring up and, worst of all, running out of whisky in a Muslim land, this pioneering ex-headmistress-on-a-bike soldiered on in true British spirit to reach her destination. The book is a delight for aspirant and seasoned travellers alike. Told with the exquisite detail that has become Ms Mustoe's hallmark, this unusual journey is recounted with keen observation, a relish of the open road and a rare, understated humour.

"Evocative reading" * Observer * "A book about the true spirit found in real travellers, written by a real traveller" * Wanderlust * About the Author Anne Mustoe read classics at Cambridge and was the headmistress of a girls' school in Suffolk until 1987, when she left her job and embarked on her first solo journey around the world by bicycle. She is an established travel writer with a substantial following who lectures regularly on her adventures.