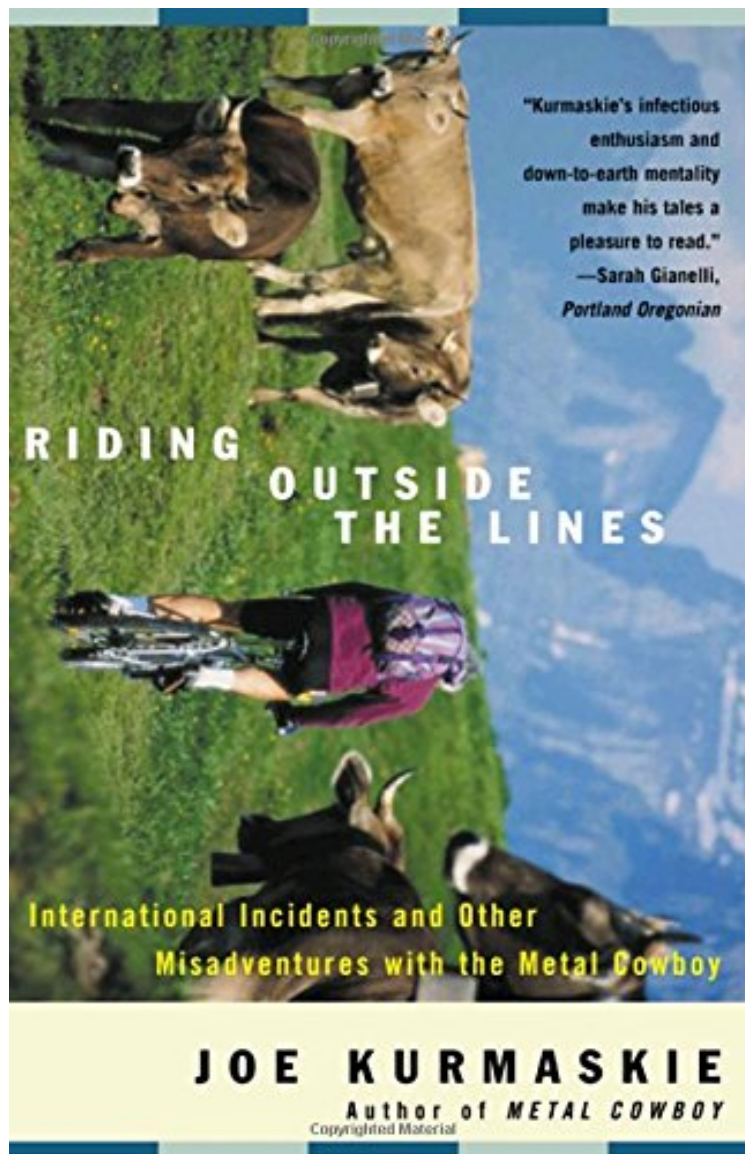


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Riding Outside The Lines: International Incidents and Other Misadventures with the Metal Cowboy

Joe Kurmaskie

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Joe Kurmaskie : Riding Outside The Lines: International Incidents and Other Misadventures with the Metal Cowboy before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Riding Outside The Lines: International Incidents and Other Misadventures with the Metal Cowboy:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Some Amazing Cycling Adventures By Mick A. If you liked Joe Kurmaskie's Metal Cowboy then you'll love the sequel, Riding Outside the Lines. The rider, I mean reader, is immediately transported to destinations dear and far, fast and funny, and a remarkable journey. "On Yere Bike," the opening chapter, is where you'll coast to a cozy pub tucked in Ireland, hob-knob with the locals, down a pint or two, and be able to kick back after a strenuous ride. All along you'll know that it's Joe's experience, but the way he tells the story, you're right there with him. Indeed, whether it's about the mad Scottish Aussie who rides a Vespa, or the Three (Unlikely) Amigos--Riding Outside The Lines is an armchair cyclist's dream adventure. I found his stories to be charming and humorous, but when he sets up a story and lets you know what city is his riding destination on one of these adventures, don't expect him to tell you whether he reached his destination or not, apparently that's not germane to the story being told. Knowing this ahead of time, may help you in enjoying these stories, because it does hop around and he gives you the highlights from many, many places and situations. If you are a cyclist you certain will enjoy this read.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. How to travel the world by bicycle without causing an international incident. By Jeffrey Fritts Another wonderful book by Joe "The Metal Cowboy" Kurmaskie. A group of short stories from Joe's world travel by bicycle. Riding Outside the Lines includes such down to earth chapters as, The All-Girls Bagpipe Squad, The Cantaloupes of Wrath, and Fast Food in the World's Slow Lanes. Joe writes with a spirit of good humor and optimism. He will show you how much smaller our world is when viewed from the seat of a bicycle.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Thoughtful Reflections By Don Schee I enjoyed Kurmaskie's thoughtful and upbeat reflections on the people he meets during his cycling travels. I would have liked to learn more about his actual struggles and joys on his bike. The final essay in this collection does this the best.

Like a modern-day Don Quixote, Joe Kurmaskie--bike adventurer, writer, and twelve-year-old boy trapped in a man's body--wanders the world on two wheels, often with hilarious results, in Riding Outside the Lines. A jaunt through such far-flung locations as Ireland, Australia, Mexico, South America, and beyond, here is a collection of tales woven together with one central theme: the world is a much smaller place when you view it from the seat of a bicycle. Whether he's weekending in the buff after accidentally stumbling into a nudist colony wedding, knocking back red wine in tin cans with a gun-toting ex-bounty hunter, combing the countryside in a quest to find the all-girl bagpipe squad he met in his dreams, or playing a rousing game of ice golf on the frozen tundra, Joe Kurmaskie writes of his gonzo global trek in a spirit infused with insight, good humor, and optimism. Riding Outside the Lines encourages travel buffs and armchair explorers alike to get on your bike and see the beauty of our planet and the colorful souls who populate it.

From Publishers Weekly A columnist for Bicycling magazine, Kurmaskie (Metal Cowboy) valorizes the unexpected vista or encounter above all else: "I like to think of the world as a grab bag, one that I rarely peek inside before the party gets rolling." Structured as a series of short trips rather than a single extended trek, this breezy, unpretentious volume covers such far-flung locales as Ireland, Peru and New Zealand. Inevitably romanticizing the material, Kurmaskie adopts the persona of your affable, "extreme" pal who's good with words. The emphasis is less on the physical toll of cycling than on the people and places encountered along the way. Kurmaskie runs into some noteworthy characters, including a former insurance agent turned Acapulco dumpster diver and an Vietnam vet turned Mexican bounty hunter. While Kurmaskie's escapades sometimes feel like tall tales, his occasional willingness to pad the text with personal if irrelevant reveries about, for example, a fondly remembered Bruce Springsteen concert, enhance his credibility--if every chapter beggared the imagination, readers would have more reason to look askance. Thankfully, some of his anecdotes (e.g., his quest to track down an Irish all-female bagpipe squad) don't work out according to the expected script. A chapter on curious syntax in signs reinforces the author's similarities to Bill Bryson, but the mode here is bubbly enthusiasm rather than dyspeptic weariness. All in all, Kurmaskie's gregarious willingness to play the role of a "ramshackle traveling carnival" makes for a highly amusing read. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From Booklist The author, a columnist for Bicycling magazine, follows up his first book, Metal Cowboy (1999), with this collection of essays chronicling his life and adventures as a devoted cyclist. Here we find the author in Ireland, tracking the elusive all-girl bagpipe squad; in Acapulco, Dumpster diving with a fellow called Sammy D.; in Alaska, touring Kicking Horse Pass. Kurmaskie, for whom cycling is not a hobby but a vital part of life, takes readers on a world tour, inspiring us to get off our butts and into the saddle. The book, like its author, is full of energy and wit, a celebration of the two-wheeled wanderer, of a lifestyle where every corner, ever hillcrest, can lead in wild new directions. The world looks different from a bicycle seat, and, with his unique point of view and distinctive voice, Kurmaskie fills us with the cyclist's spirit of adventure. Recommend this one for fans of Tony Hawks, Tim Moore, and other writers of offbeat travel literature. David Pitt Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved

From the Inside Flap Like a modern-day Don Quixote, Joe Kurmaskie--bike adventurer, writer, and twelve-year-old boy trapped in a man's body--wanders the world on two wheels, often with hilarious results, in Riding Outside the Lines. A jaunt through such far-flung locations as Ireland, Australia, Mexico, South America, and beyond, here is a collection of tales woven together with one central theme: the world is a much

smaller place when you view it from the seat of a bicycle. Whether he's weekendending in the buff after accidentally stumbling into a nudist colony wedding, knocking back red wine in tin cans with a gun-toting ex-bounty hunter, combing the countryside in a quest to find the all-girl bagpipe squad he met in his dreams, or playing a rousing game of ice golf on the frozen tundra, Joe Kurmaskie writes of his gonzo global trek in a spirit infused with insight, good humor, and optimism. *Riding Outside the Lines* encourages travel buffs and armchair explorers alike to get on your bike and see the beauty of our planet and the colorful souls who populate it.