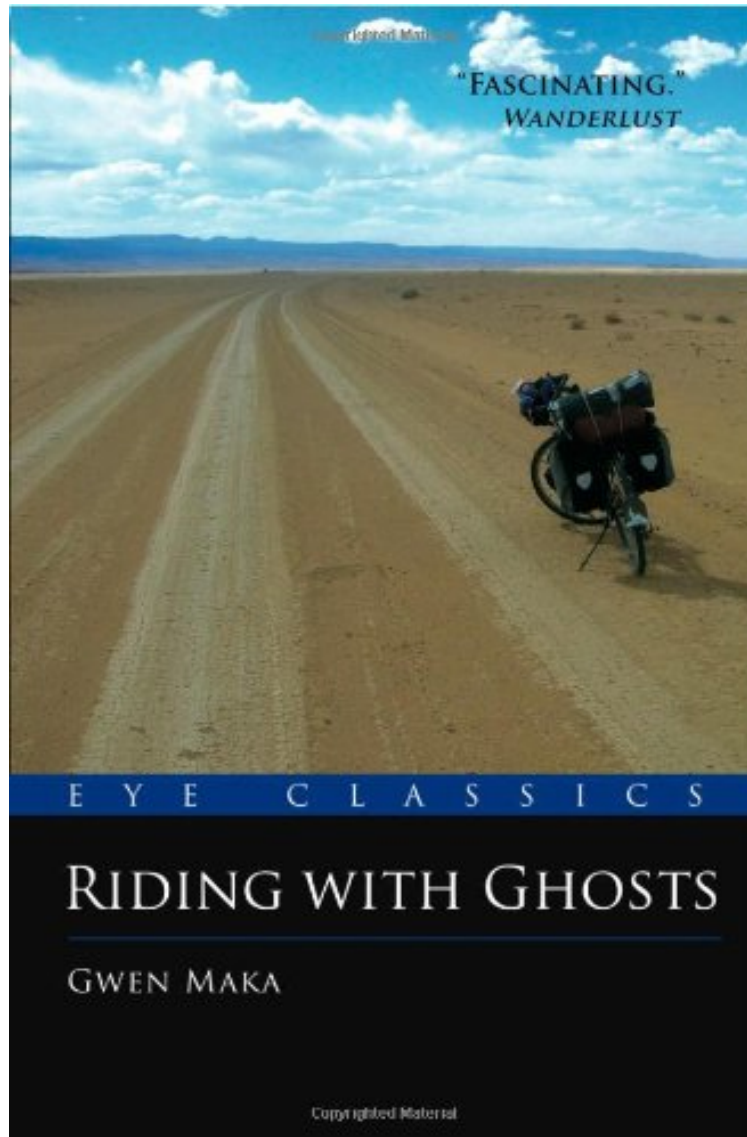


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Riding with Ghosts (Eye Classics)

Gwen Maka

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Gwen Maka : Riding with Ghosts (Eye Classics) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Riding with Ghosts (Eye Classics):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Super!By Anita HazeltineHistory that "they" forgot to tell you about!2 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Horrible Little BookBy hdtravelI ordered this because it sounded like a good travel read. I am a voracious reader of travel books.It was horrible. After a couple of chapters I had to stop and I returned it promptly to .It is poorly written and just rambles on incoherently, often going off on

tangents at random. It is scattered and just a mess. Save yourself the grief and just skip it. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Astute, Empathetic, and Brave By S. Lawrence I hope the other reviewers did not give this splendid account low stars as a way of "shooting the messenger". Yes, some of the prose could use a little detangling but the "ghosts" Maka writes of are real. Various native American tribes WERE wiped out by white settlers. Spanish conquistadors DID slaughter millions of indigenous people in Central America. And large, US-based corporations ARE paying workers poverty-level wages while the CEO's earn millions. Maka didn't create these facts and shouldn't be put down for weaving them into her story. But this book is more than a grim history lesson. First and foremost (although Maka seems too modest to mention it) RWG is the story of a woman accomplishing an extraordinary physical feat. Imagine spending a week cycling dozens of miles a day in your town, let alone a foreign country. Maka did this for seven months. And what a service to offer a first-hand account of life in Mexico, Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Costa Rica! Those of us who, like Maka, followed the grim reports of the civil wars of the '80's wonder how things there are now. This book tells us. It was nice seeing Maka get excited about a village but then quickly step back from romanticizing poverty or drowning in sentimentality. What wasn't nice was seeing Maka take foolish chances or being so, so cheap. National and State parks are in a perennial budget crisis; reading of her continually trying to browbeat the clerks out of a few dollars wasn't pretty. The cracks about potbellied RV'ers were a bit juvenile, too. But Ms. Maka made it through fine and the reader of this volume will be rewarded.

Frank and often outrageous, this is an account of a 40-something Englishwoman's epic 4,000 mile cycle ride from Seattle to Mexico, via the snow-covered Rockies, mostly alone and camping in the wild. She runs appalling risks and copes in a gutsy, hilarious way with exhaustion, climatic extremes, dangerous animals, eccentrics, lechers, and a permanently saddle-sore backside. We share her deep involvement with the West's pioneering past, and with the tragic traces that history has left lingering on the land. When she rides the faded trails of the vanished American Indian nations she displays a strong sensitivity to the atmosphere of the spectacular landscape, as if the moments of its vibrant past are hanging in the air, only waiting for her to conjure them up vividly sometimes with humor, and frequently with passion. As she travels, the ghosts of Lewis and Clark, Chief Joseph and Geronimo, Custer and Crazy Horse all the legendary figures of the Old West ride with her.

"A fantastic read." Cycling World