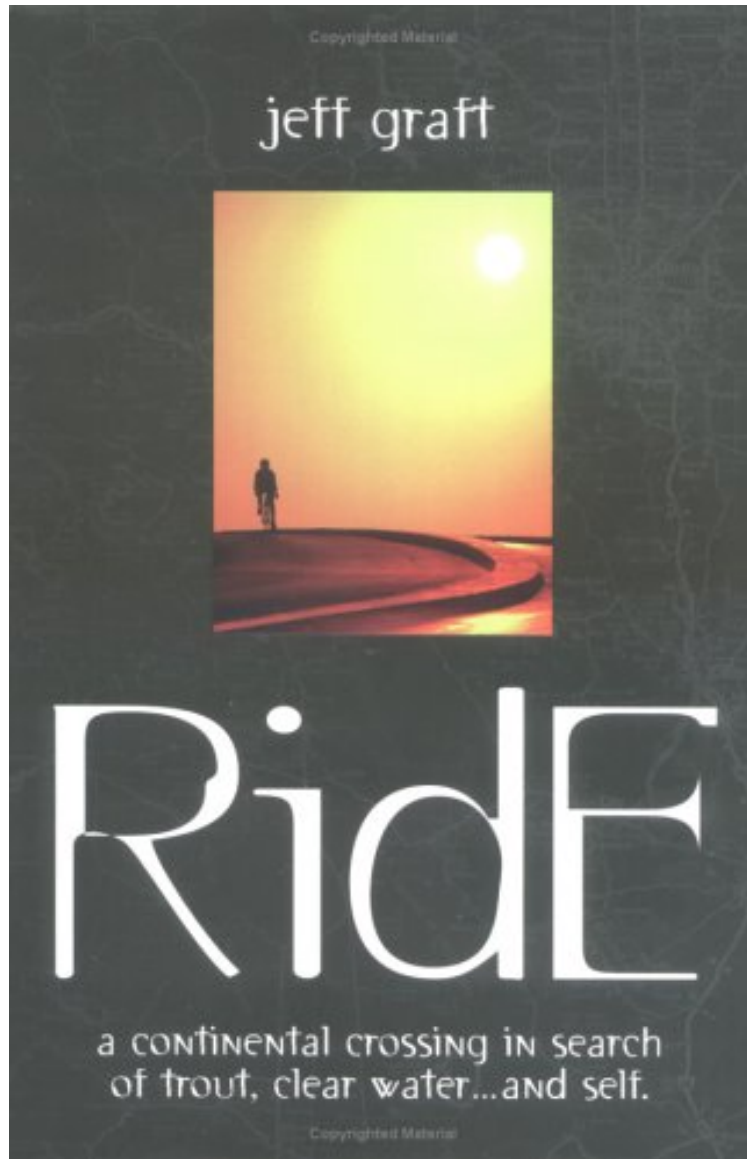


[PDF] Ride: A Continental Crossing in Search of Trout, Clear Water...and Self

# Ride: A Continental Crossing in Search of Trout, Clear Water...and Self

Jeff Graft

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**Jeff Graft : Ride: A Continental Crossing in Search of Trout, Clear Water...and Self** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ride: A Continental Crossing in Search of Trout, Clear Water...and Self:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Time for thought, test of stamina, determinationBy Jolene S.To

decide to ride a bicycle across this country, sorta just boggled my mind, so I had to find out "why" someone would do this! To find a part of ones self each day, be it old or new, and the sights, sounds, and time for thought, kept me glued. First book I have finished in years! The author gives you lessons learned each day, does some fly fishing along the way, and pretty soon you find yourself pushing with him to accomplish the goals of the day and hope he catches some fish 'cause you know he's got to be hungry at times. What great satisfaction one gets from accomplishing goals and sometimes the stick-to-i-tive-ness that it takes to do so. I am sure you will enjoy the book as much as I did. Truly bought the book for my son who is a bicyclist himself, but he had to wait for Mom to finish first. The best part of all, I personally have met Mr. Graft and attended the initial book signing. Part of the proceeds from his book are being donated to the Conservation Resource Alliance to protect our streams and rivers. You too will truly enjoy the trials and accomplishments of what must have been an awesome "Ride" Congratulations to Mr. Graft!

1 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Daily journals are not always interesting  
By A Customer  
While this book was not completely devoid of merit, it was easily the worst travelogue I have ever read. After two pages of introduction, the rest of the book is simply a daily log of the miles travelled and the people encountered, with very few details. There is no attempt at an overall narrative, and no account of any growth on the part of the author. While throughout the book you get glimpses of the plans and logistics that were involved in the trip, the author seems to try to avoid mentioning them. It often seemed as if he was trying to give the impression that the trip was far more seat-of-the-pants than it was. The lack of personal information made it impossible to truly understand who the author was, and he seemed to note conversations regardless of their interest. Although the fact that prior to the trip he had never biked more than 25 miles is mentioned on both the jacket and in the introduction, it plays no role whatsoever in the story; he rarely mentions having any trouble on the trip. As if this were not enough to keep the story from being interesting, the author uses phrases and slang over and over, making me feel that he was repeating himself, and he includes a 'lesson' at the end of each day which usually amounts to a type of 'stop and smell the flowers' variety. These lessons have good intentions, but usually restate what has been covered in the narrative in case you missed it. If you are looking for quality writing about travelling, try Tim Cahill, Bill Bryson or David Quammen. This book does not even do a good job of describing the efforts involved in peddaling across the continent.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Along for the ride with Jeff Graft  
By Lorene Erickson  
I'm a moderate day biker, 25 to 30 miles on flat land, so I was intrigued by Jeff Graft's fine book, Ride, in which he describes his 4,000 mile cross country ride across the US. I enjoyed the trip, and I didn't get sore. In fact, I sped through the book in one sitting, met a lot of nice folks, learned a few things about fishing and about biking long distances, mulled over a few life "lessons" which Jeff tacks onto the ends of his chapters, appreciated the fact that he was making the trip--not me. I praise the book's great layout design with its maps of the trip, Jeff's photos along the way, the journal style with dates and days marked, clean typeface, lots of white space. An easy read for a good cause--raising funds for conservation.

"Ride" chronicles a 4,000-mile cross-country bicycle ride from Seattle to Savannah. With little preparation and planning, a young businessman simply jumped on his bike and started pedaling. His goal: to raise money for trout stream preservation. The only problem was that the longest bike ride hed ever taken was twenty-five miles long. And he barely knew how to repair a flat tire. Packing a fly rod and waders in place of a tent, he traveled through some of the countrys most spectacular scenery, fished on some of its best waters, and met some of its most charming, "classic" personalities. And with long hours alonewith just the road and assorted creatures to keep him companyhe got to meet one other important personhimself. Each day brought new insights into life, and each day he recorded a personal lesson, a daily sutra. Reading "Ride" you cant help but feel good about this country, its resources, and its peopleespecially if you can just step back, slow down, and get things in perspective. In some way, each of us makes his or her own ride. Perhaps this one will help with yours.

...Graft pulls it off. You'll like this book, the author, and the cause. -- alloutdoors.com Web site  
A well-written, entertaining book that gives you just about everything you can ask for...a rare book. -- Traverse City Record-Eagle newspaper, July 13, 2000  
The engrossing, and even inspirational account of Graft's trek across America...Full of vivid descriptions ...colorful characters...and priceless moments. -- Northern Express newspaper, September 21, 2000