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Old Men Can't Wait: A Septuagenarian Odyssey Through The Americas



Synopsis

This epic exploration of thirteen countries takes Gandolfi across deserts and over mountains, through the forest and the length of the Appalachians. Gauchos, oil workers, peasant farmers, officials, owners of vast haciendas, Venezuelan revolutionaries, students at Texas A&M - all excite his curiosity and he faithfully records their opinions while submitting his own thoughts, beliefs, and fears to an often merciless inspection. Outrageously irresponsible and undeniably liberating, Gandolfi's travels will fire the imaginations of every traveler, young or old.

Book Information

Paperback: 272 pages

Publisher: Arcadia Books Ltd (July 15, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 191005061X

ISBN-13: 978-1910050613

Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.8 x 7.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.1 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 9 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

'Gandolfi has a pleasingly robust attitude to guide books and pays little heed to warnings to keep to the safe tourist trail.' * Sunday Telegraph * 'An epic, amazing, and frankly mind-boggling journey -and trust me, that description barely covers it' * LondonBiker.com * 'Flash wheels and support vehicles are for wimps, as 73-year-old Simon Gandolfi proves as he rides a Honda 125' * The Guardian * 'Enlightening, involving, inspiring' * Overland Magazine *

Simon was born in London in 1933. After military service served as a subaltern in the 16th/5th Lancers, at the age of 18, early friendships with the co-directors of the cult movie, Performance introduced him to the wider world of the arts, and actor Antony Quail encouraged him to write his first novel, Even With The Shutters Closed. He has been privileged in making writing and travel his primary occupations in has been fortunate in living in and experiencing a variety of cultures: Spain/Ibiza, Greece, France, Afghanistan and the Indian subcontinent, the Dominican Republic and,

finally, Cuba for four years before returning to his cottage in Herefordshire.

I really enjoyed this book, and would heartily recommend it to anyone. Simon Gandolfi is the epitome of the journalistic standard, with a life history to back it up. He is an intellectual bad-ass, unafraid to speak up, and fully able to back up his opinions. He is not abusive, instead bringing a journalists' pragmatic and balanced view to a carefully considered and observed view of the world. I'm almost the same age as he when he did this trip, and now I want to follow my own young man's dream and do something similar. This book is about a motorcycle trip starting in Ushuaia in South America and ending in the American Northeast. It is the second book of a trip that started in America and ended in Ushuaia where the bike was stored for several months until he could resume the trip. I found this book so enjoyable that I'm currently reading the first book about the trip. The biggest reason the book caught my eye was that Simon did this trip on a Honda 125cc bike that he bought in Brazil. Touring on a small motorcycle is appealing on a lot of levels, not least of which is cost and availability of service, along with ease of handling. Simon is very appreciative of and attuned to sensual things: food, living conditions, physical beauty, and he brings them to life in a vivid way that makes them familiar to the reader's experience.. I am grateful that Simon did these trips and wrote such great books about them. They are classics that will be around a long time. Truly wonderful reads, that I will read again and again through the years.

Book arrived in a timely fashion. Looks like it should be as interesting as his earlier book that I had read a few years ago.

I read both his books so I must have enjoyed them. Nice to see someone on a small bike for a change. So tired of these guys with monstrous \$25000 bikes with \$15000 in special equipment going off for an "adventure" - it's a joke. Although I agreed with the authors politics I got tired of hearing about them. Being in my 70s and still riding after 55 years I liked his books.

I liked this story ! A slightly aristocratic but worldly man rides a Honda 125 "up" South America had not read Mr Gandolfi before and enjoyed his tales of life riding a Honda 125 in the Americas-he wrote two books-and the ups and downs he unfortunately sustained. His observations experiences and comments are interesting, and- I don't have to make any effort whatsoever to share his ride.Hope you enjoy it too-probably even more if you are clocking on a bit!

wanted it to be more about motorcycling

I like his ruggedness at his advanced age. His political passing hurt my feelings but we're needed to be said. The average American knows nothing of the rest of our world. This old guy provided good insight as he has seen a lot in his time. Both books of this trip are highly recommended

Reminds me of me!

Well written

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