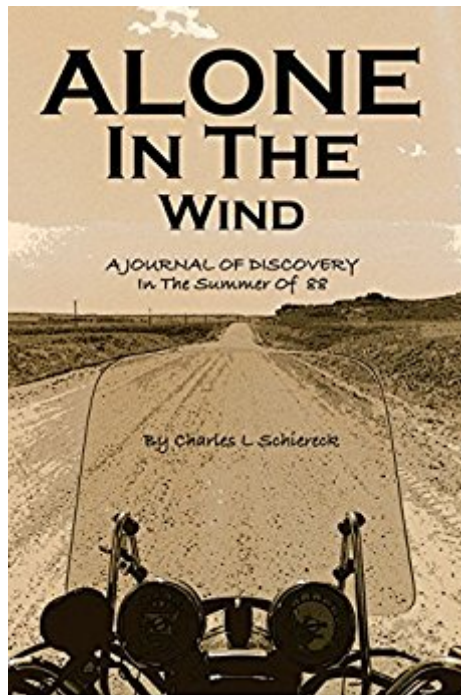




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Alone In The Wind: A Journal Of Discovery In 'The Summer Of 88'



Synopsis

In the long hot 'Summer of 88', the author packed up his motorcycle and pulled out of the garage with no destination or return date in mind. 1988 would prove to be the worst drought since the dustbowl of the 1930s. Yellowstone would burn, Ronald Reagan would shake his fist at the 'Evil Empire', and the author, oblivious to it all, hit the road and never looked back. That trip would consume the entire summer, logging over twelve thousand miles from sea to sea and back. "Alone In The Wind" is the account of that trip, with pictures, maps, historical & geographical notes, and rolling narrative. A few selected excerpts: The early evening sun is bright red and except for wind slapping the tents, all is quiet. Other campers are talking in subdued tones. The scene has a timeless quality I can't explain. Maybe it's how I'd picture an Oregon Trail camp. Everybody too exhausted to do more than whisper, anticipating the day ahead, trying to forget the ones behind. Kurt Vonnegut might have written that the Custer annihilation occurred solely to provide me with a ranger to give advice on the coming storms. That irony rattled around in my helmet for the next forty miles. Chewing mindlessly I stare at passing trucks with red eyes. This has been an endless, grueling day. A far cry from the mystical experience that other writers claim. The bone numbing reality of motorcycle touring is exhaustion, dehydration, disorientation. Vacant eyes seem to be nothing more than rubber stoppers that keep my liquefied brains from spilling out over my face. Carved out by the tides, the cave is probably underwater for most of the day. At the entrance is a rock with a well-formed depression at the top. Without thinking I dump both bottles of Atlantic Ocean into that shallow basin, move deeper into the cave and sit. There's a lot on my mind, and it all seems to be demanding immediate attention. The mission will be accomplished. The oceans will unite. It will take a few hours, and I won't be here to see it, but this is a better way. Letting the sea take it on its own terms seems more fitting. Heat was the real problem. Both the heat of a western summer day and the heat thrown off an air-cooled engine that's being pushed to its limits. While it was never transcendental, the passage was always very real, very immediate, and unforgettable. Thinking back to the other riders that I met, it seemed the same for them as well. They were all worn down with fatigue and loneliness - while at the same time brimming over with confidence and satisfaction. I won't forget them.

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Customer Reviews

This retelling of the author's trek across America, by motorcycle, is an amazing piece of work. It is by no means written to appeal to biking enthusiasts, alone. On the contrary, the author tells his story with a charm and wit that will appeal to men and women, young and old. And what is that story? It is a story about America, spliced here and there with just enough history to entertain you. But mainly, "America" is revealed in the telling of the story itself, an America that existed in 1988, which some will fondly recognize and others will never know existed. The author has no axes to grind, except maybe his own. There is a light "coming of age" feeling to the events that unfold, but mainly, I heard pure joy and openness to possibility in the author's voice, even when the going got rough, as it often did, for various reasons. I think the part that stuck most with me was being dropped into this adventure, as the author was, in 1988, without the aid of cell phones or any other devices that keep us so connected (and yet not connected) to everyone else, leaving us to connect with the land, the people, and ultimately, ourselves. Whether you ever contemplate a trip like this or not, much less take one, the story has a lot to offer. It is America, frozen in the lens of the author's words and pictures, as it existed in a seemingly simpler, and infinitely happier, place and time.

This is a great traveling book story. Almost everyone can identify with a "road trip" and this is one of the ultimate ones. Since I have been to all or many of the places and remember my own feelings and good times (and not so good). It is great for the detail and descriptions of the location, the weather and the situation. Easy to put yourself into the authors boots. Also, the decisions the author makes are not without the normal internal tormenting, should I or shouldn't I. An easy read which is great for bringing everyone back in touch with their own "wanderlust". Highly recommend. It also rekindles the spirit for new adventures!!!! Well done.

Anyone who cherishes the imagery of searching for freedom through a road trip will love this story. Ride along with Chuck on his motorcycle exploring the open road as he travels cross country to discover many things, including himself. Even if you've never ridden a motorcycle, you will enjoy Chuck's adventure through his vivid descriptions of the grandeur and spirit of some of America's greatest natural resources--our National Parks. You too might find, as Chuck did, that people are "transformed gradually by the sum of their experiences and learning." Thanks for taking me on your journey.

When I read this was a book about a guy in 1988 on a solo motorcycle trip across the US I couldn't resist. A very well written book, often poetically scribed and descriptive. If you love motorcycle adventure stories, this is a must read. I found it hard to put down and in the end it left me wanting more. A book you will actually read every page, cover to cover. This book will be placed in my personal library of great reads.

This book was a pleasant surprise as both a travel journal and a journal of personal change. It did an excellent job conveying both the adventure and the hassles of the open road in a mix of anecdotes and internal musings as the author followed his path and deviated from it. For me, the book also provided a very unique "alternate view" of the 80's and I found myself doing a lot of "where was I when he was doing this".. It's an enjoyable read on the Kindle and when I picked up the print version during a deal, I enjoyed it even more.

In a style not unlike your approach to travel, your writing struck a chord in me. The way you cut through unneeded prose just as you did without an over-built bike or luxuries versus Spartan essentials made for an excellent read. While recovering from 4 spine surgeries over the years I

have stayed close to my favorite "pastime" by reading many books about the topic while on the mend. Yours stands out in the way it doesn't bog down the reader with the usual layers of a fiction novel almost always suffers... your book is not without its own literary technique but I found it refreshing and to the point. It seemed as if that was due in large part to how you tick in general....passing on My St Helens for example. I guess it's true that we leave a bit of ourselves for all to see in everything we write. Your book moved me and fortified my desire to write down my recollections of a lifetime of motorcycle adventures and trips yet to come. I close my first review ever with a sincere Thank You. I wish you well and I hope to read about more of your adventures.

This was a good fast read. Enjoyed it as it traveled a lot of where I have also been. Written well for people like me as I am not into over describing everything for the sake of more pages. Good pics to along with the story. Air cooled on that big a journey? Not smart, but yamahaws will pull it off!

It was interesting as I had never read an account of traveling on a motorcycle. Enjoyed the place he described, some that we have been.

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