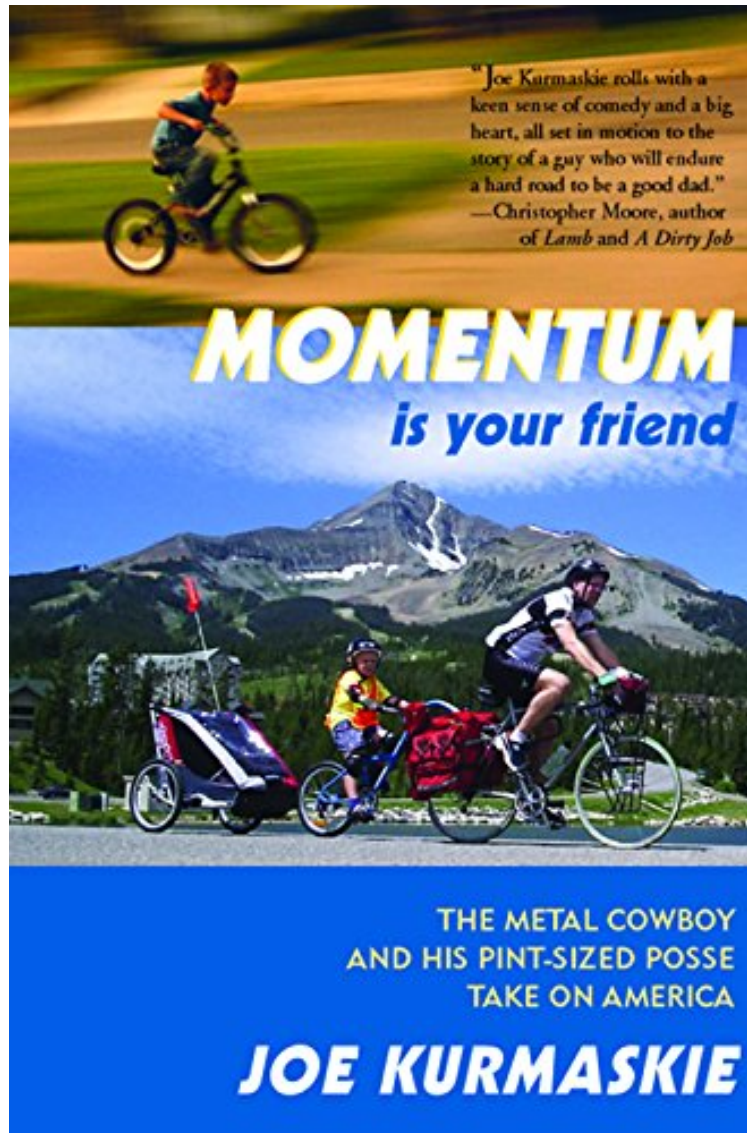


Momentum Is Your Friend: The Metal Cowboy and His Pint-Sized Posse Take on America

Joe Kurmaskie

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Joe Kurmaskie : Momentum Is Your Friend: The Metal Cowboy and His Pint-Sized Posse Take on America before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Momentum Is Your Friend: The Metal Cowboy and His Pint-Sized Posse Take on America:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great and heartwarming story slightly marred by politicsBy Patrick

Gray As a fairly newly minted father, and someone who has recently returned to cycling, I found this book very enjoyable. The author has a self-effacing and introspective style that leaves one saying "hey, I could do that" despite the fact that he has eons more experience than the average cyclist. I felt like I was listening to my buddy down the street talk about his travels, rather than some elite cyclist/writer describing a trip that I could never even dream of attempting. "The Metal Cowboy" also presents the trip as a series of vignettes, so you feel like you're there during noteworthy parts of the trip, without being subjected to the mundane details of every mile. It's definitely more travel story than bicycle book, or specific notes about the route. The bicycle presented a unifying thread, but I think the book would be enjoyable to non-cyclists as well. The author also shares his reflections on fatherhood, and the passing of his own father in fairly intimate detail. This might be a turn-off for some readers, but it mirrored many of the thoughts and feelings I have as a new father, which I appreciated. Despite his obvious cycling experience, the author doesn't take himself too seriously throughout most of the book, and keeps things light and fast paced while nicely integrating a message about the importance of family, travel, and fatherhood. The only negative about this book is the occasional and annoying political reference, especially when contrasted with the style of the rest of the book. There are several references to rigged/stolen elections, that I can only assume refer to the 2004 presidential election. These seem snarky and dated, especially reading this in 2011. I was also somewhat annoyed by the author's descriptions of his interactions with the local folk along his route. They seemed to follow a formula of "These people looked like boneheaded red-necks, drove gas guzzling vehicles, and probably voted for George Bush/want to burn down the rain forest/watch too much TV/work for oil companies/etc..... but when I actually talked to them they were really nice!" It's as if the author tries to show how enlightened and open-minded he is by questioning his own stereotypes, but one wonders how he got such a low opinion, and intolerance for the nuances of his countrymen in the first place. If you like travel stories, and need a bit of inspiration for putting your butt on a bicycle with sons (or daughters) in tow, this book will certainly do that, and the somewhat jarring political nonsense can easily be ignored without dampening what's an uplifting and enjoyable travel story. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A quick, inspiring read By JAH "Momentum is Your Friend" is a fun, witty, and sometimes touching read that has me feeling inspired to get my own kids out on a bike tour. Kurmaskie is very good at making hilarious observations about bike travel and fatherhood that I'd never quite put into words. I have to think that it will be a hit with any other adventure dads out there. I read most books using the Kindle app for Android. This one didn't suffer too much from any glaring formatting issues, as is sometimes the case. The only complaint I had was that it felt like I finished the book before I was ready for it to end. I guess that's good for business, though, since it caused me to immediately buy his next book and devour it just as quickly. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. ... few of Kurmaskie's books and he's just a really good writer. I'm a cyclist By Marc Baldwin I've read a few of Kurmaskie's books and he's just a really good writer. I'm a cyclist, so I enjoy that aspect of his books, but he is a good story teller so there is a lot to like about this adventure even if you don't cycle. Riding across America on a bicycle pulling your two kids?? That's the making of a good story!

"A reader's trifecta: a humorous travelogue, a stirring adventure tale, and a touching family story." Bart King, author of *The Big Book of Boy Stuff* For a four-thousand-mile bicycle ride across America, Joe's seven-year-old son Quinn rides a tagalong bike attached to his dad's, and behind that is five-year-old Enzo in a bike trailer. Our hero the Metal Cowboy answers the question "What are you, crazy?" with a resounding "Yes." With no support crew except his boys' comic relief and the kindness of strangers, he pedals hundreds of pounds of gear and offspring over mountain passes, through thunderstorms, and into the heart of what it means to be a dad.

"As Melville is to the sea, Mark Twain to the raft, and Kerouac to the car, Kurmaskie is to the bike." -- Andrew Lewis Conn, Author of *P* and *The Last American Novel* "Give Huck Finn a bicycle, give Lance a sense of humor, give Kerouac a good editor and you have Joe_Kurmaskie." -- Tom Lang, author of *Coffee, Cat, and Mrs. Claus* "Intimate, ironic, worldly, wise, and most of all, fun. It reads like a wild, downhill ride with lots of switchbacks." -- Robert Ferrigno, author of *Prayers for the Assassin* and *Horse Latitude* "Joe Kurmaskie rolls with a keen sense of comedy and a big heart." -- Christopher Moore, author of *Lamb, Fluke* and *A Dirty Job* "Kurmaskie treats us to a reader's trifecta: a humorous travelogue, a stirring adventure tale, and a touching family story." -- Bart King, author of *The Big Book of Boy Stuff* About the Author Joe Kurmaskie is the author of *Metal Cowboy* (Breakaway, 1999) and *Riding Outside the Lines* (Crown 2001).