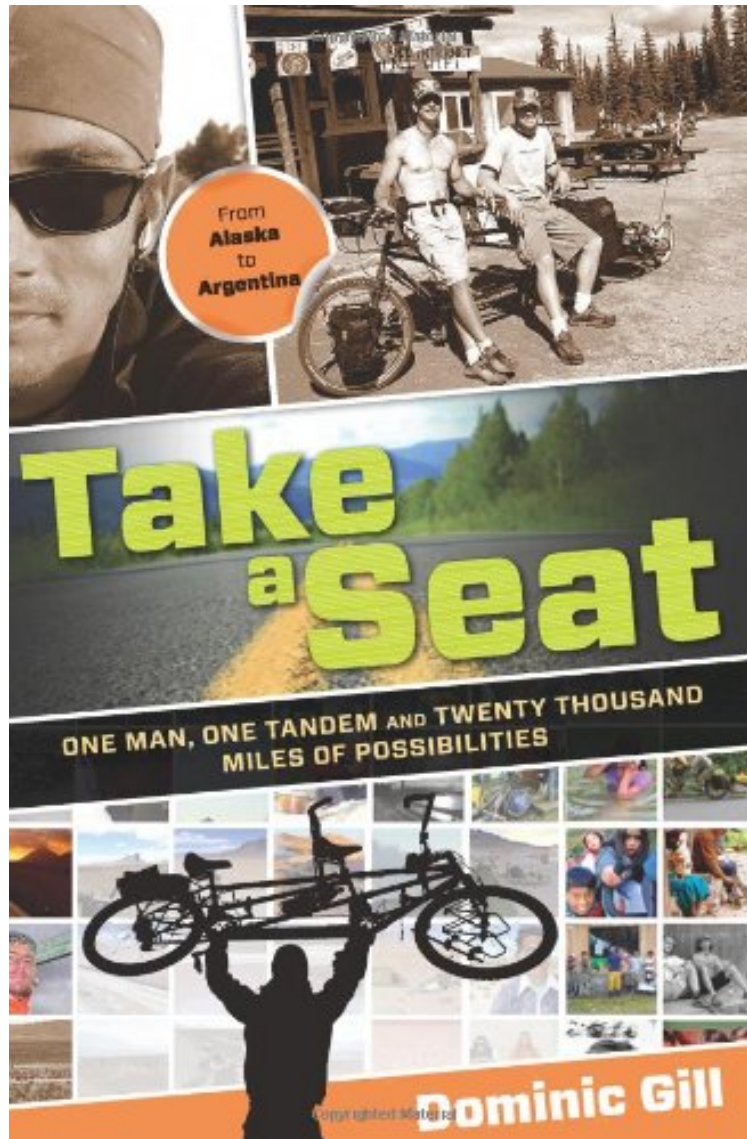


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Take a Seat: One Man, One Tandem And Twenty Thousand Miles Of Possibilities

Dominic Gill

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Dominic Gill : Take a Seat: One Man, One Tandem And Twenty Thousand Miles Of Possibilities before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Take a Seat: One Man, One Tandem And Twenty Thousand Miles Of Possibilities:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. One of the best cycling books in a long timeBy Anthony

ValenteOver the years I have read a number of, what I refer to as, true life adventure books. Books of mountain climbers, Pacific Coast and Appalachian trail hikers, river rafters, Arctic adventurers, and, of course, cyclists. Many's the time I started a book, excited by the concept, only to find myself either bored with the way it was written, or finding myself disliking the person in the middle of the adventure. Some of these same adventurers I have found to be full of themselves, or whiners, or ill prepared entirely for the endeavor. The last being the one that annoys me the most. Do NOT set off on something you aren't ready for and hope someone saves you.... But sorry, I digress...I bring this up as I afraid this was happening again. The author, Dominic, found himself in Alaska, with his trusty steed Achilles (I won't tell you how it got its name) having rarely, if ever ridden it, and never with a full load. The first few nights, he was feeling sorry for himself. I was afraid I had once again found a book I would dislike. I am happy to report, I was entirely wrong! As Dominic moved south, mostly alone, but at times with someone riding stoker, he grew both into the challenge and the story...What I loved about this book is he didn't fill it with dry daily, weekly or even monthly stats. He told the story of the trip. The people he met, the things he saw, such as a bear, an angry man with a machete, and a snake of unknown species. Each of which was contained in a story of the day, the leg or the area he was in. I found out he rode on my local trails here in Seattle, met a friend of mine in Portland, and rode the coast I love in Oregon. I truly wish I would've met him during the trip so I could put in some miles to help (270 people did just that). He was also not afraid to be human, and the 20 something guy he was. He rarely turned down a chance to drink and party the night away with the locals, and a common theme was riding off a hangover the next morning. He also seemed to have an uncanny knack of having women help propel him along his way south. Though I sometimes wondered if anything more than riding came from these meetings, Dominic was a gentleman and we never found out. He DID, though, let know clearly how much it took for the stokers to help him. Most of the riders were NOT cyclists. Trust me when I tell you, if you have not taken the time to build up the miles on your "nether regions" long bike rides will leave one saddle sore beyond belief. Almost every one of his copilots suffered for their help. (After seeing a picture of the seat, I have no doubts!) Dominic excelled at painting pictures of what he saw. The redwoods of California, the deserts of Mexico, the ladies of all countries, and desolation of parts of South America. Every part of the ride, if you closed your eyes reading a description it was there, vivid as can be. And finally, he made sure we knew what he was thinking. All too often these stories have people who are either gung-ho the whole time, nothing gets them down, or flat-out whining about the trip on every page! Dominic, in the over 2 years it took to complete the ride, was, in short, human. Sometimes pumped beyond belief, sometimes ready to quit. There were laughs, tears, anger, frustration and triumphs. All of which he took pains to explain and share very well. Plus you gotta love a guy who gives rides to kids just because they are kids, no matter how tired he is. This book got a rare 5 stars, and I recommend it to cyclists, couch potatoes and everyone in between. I thoroughly enjoyed it! 6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. It's not an adventure until something goes wrong By LTHaving had the opportunity to join Dominic for a night on a more recent cross-country cycling trip, I can see that his magnetic personality is transferred right into the pages of Take a Seat as you join him for 20,000 miles from Alaska to the tip of South America on Achilles, a tandem bike used to pick up anyone who wanted to offer a bit of company and pedaling power. Dom's story is addictive, inspirational, emotional and contains all the unexpected qualities that define an adventure. You honestly do feel like you're right there, sore arse and all, journeying across open land, tall mountains, coastal highways and experiencing life and culture in its purist form along the way. With so many depressing stories dominating media headlines, escape to the real world on a journey that will restore your faith in humanity. Take a seat, it will change your life. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great Book, Good Read! By MXR500The book brought back many memories of when I traveled as a young man, working and living in a tent for about 3 months in Alaska. It is also an inspiration to all who can appreciate attrition. Great book, good read! It's nice that the writer discovered himself and the true meaning of his soul searching Journey in the end! I guess a little fate also helps!

A highly personal account of a remarkable journey that pushed the author to the brink

From the Back CoverWhen Dominic Gill set out from Prudhoe Bay, Alaska, by bicycle on June 16, 2006, it was to be no ordinary bike ride. His goal was to reach Ushuaia, the southernmost city in South America, nearly 20,000 miles away, and he was starting off with virtually no money in his pocket, barely enough food to last a week, and, worst of all, with thousands of miles between him and his friends and family.