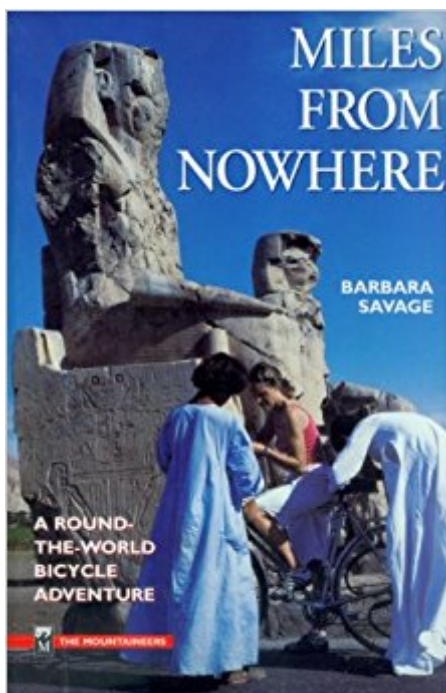


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# Miles From Nowhere: A Round The World Bicycle Adventure



## Synopsis

\* A well-loved, classic tale of adventure \* Read this and you'll find yourself recommending it to friends again and again This is the story of Barbara and Larry Savage's sometimes dangerous, often zany, but ultimately rewarding 23,000 miles global bicycle odyssey, which took them through 25 countries in two years. Miles From Nowhere is an adventure not to be missed! Along the way, these near-neophyte cyclists encountered warm-hearted strangers eager to share food and shelter, bicycle-hating drivers who shoved them off the road, various wild animals (including a roof ape and an attack camel), sacred cows, rock-throwing Egyptians, overprotective Thai policeman, motherly New Zealanders, meteorological disasters, bodily indignities, and great personal joys. The stress of traveling together constantly for two years tested and ultimately strengthened the young couple's relationship. As their trip ends you'll find yourself yearning for Barbara and Larry to mount back up and keep pedaling. It's a story that makes you feel like you've grown right along with the author.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

... over 300 pages of the most delightful travel literature I have ever read. (Santa Barbara News-Press)

11 1.5-hour cassettes --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"Miles from Nowhere" is my favorite of the several bicycle touring books (and most other books) I

have read. The fact that it is my only book that my wife has read is evidence of its worth. After I read it, my wife and I read it out loud to each other and we laughed all the way through it -- and cried at the end. Barbara writes like she thinks and talks, which is refreshing and keeps you wondering -- but more than just wondering what they are going to run into around the next corner. They peddle around the world, making it up as they go, and undergo a lifetime of experiences from marriage crisis, life-threatening encounters, human dramas and wonderful people stories; and, they do it all with 10-speeds before the bicycles and gadgetry caught on. I believe you should read it even if you are not interested in bicycling -- it is that good.

Though in places, she seems to perceive local people as complete angels or total nincompoops, there's still a lot to like in this narrative. She's candid about her feelings, throughout, and about the conditions she (and her fellow travelers) encountered in so many places around the world. It's no Pollyanna dreamscape, nor is it a cynical diatribe - it's a revealing exploration of what it was really like for her to ride across the U.S. and through so many different countries nearly 50 years ago.

I read "Miles from Nowhere" when it was published in the early 80s. An avid bicyclist I immediately decided that some day I too would embark on a distance biking adventure. But I set my sights a lot lower than Barbara Savage. I just wanted to cross the U.S. But there was no way I could immediately follow in the Savage's bike path. I had three children ages 1, 3, and 7. I recently re-read "Miles from Nowhere," downloaded onto my Kindle in preparation for fulfilling that dream to ride across the U.S. In 30 years it had lost none of its charm. What begins as a whim sends the Savages packing, selling, and discarding the trappings of contemporary American life in favor of two years spent riding in what was then the free world. They bought the panniers, the tent and cooking equipment, the touring bikes, the spare tires and other parts and followed a route of their own devising. They traveled north from California through Oregon and Washington then east across the Great Plains in Canada before dropping down to the States. From there they biked to Key West, flew to Europe and then biked in places many of us would consider unsafe, especially for women, these days including Egypt. They biked through India and parts of Nepal as well as Thailand: places not generally considered safe especially for two people on bicycles. They are welcomed, warned, threatened, but never experience physical harm. When I first read the book the thing that interested me the most was Barbara's descriptions of the people they met along the way. The Savages made connections with so many interesting people, complete strangers who took them into their homes, and thus their lives. One of the things that most struck me about this was the degree of trust people

had to have. Barbara and Larry had to believe they would be safe, and so did their hosts. I was especially enthralled by their descriptions of hospitality coming from their fellow Americans. When I reread "Miles from Nowhere" I still was enthralled with their encounters with other people and other cultures. But now I also paid closer attention to descriptions of bike problems along the way. Although my trip was a supported tour I still would need to know how to change a flat or identify problems with gears. Barbara's insight into their bikes' mechanical problems gave me an idea of what I might be in for even though I was on a supported tour with easy access to bike shops. Nevertheless reading about their problems reminded me of how important it would be for me to take good care of my bike. One of the things Barbara wrote about my fellow Americans that bothered me greatly was how biker unfriendly Florida was in the late 70s, even in places where there were dedicated bike paths. Within the last year I have done a "training ride" in southwest Florida almost exclusively on bike paths that were well cared for and clean. Crossing very rural parts of central Florida on the cross country ride there were only one or two places where people were not bicycle friendly. So if, after reading "Miles from Nowhere" you decide to avoid riding in Florida, fear not, it is now a very biker friendly state! And even if you are an armchair tourist you will find their descriptions of the places they visit and the people they meet well worth the read. Had I not read Miles from Nowhere I doubt if I would have ever created a biking adventure of my very own.

fabulous book! a great read even if i did have to be talked into reading it..... my family agreed it was a wonderful book as well, and i had to twist some arms to get them to read it too. It doesn't really sound like a bicycle adventure would be that interesting, but it was a very captivating read.... plus it was written in the 1970's which was cool as well, i think perhaps adventures were probably safer back then.

In the late 1970's, Barbara and her husband bicycled around the world. This book is still readable today, and offers amazing insights into the cultures of other countries (Egypt was especially dangerous and jaw-dropping in their treatment of the couple) as well as the U.S. This journey is, in some ways, beyond comprehension. They rode a total of 23,000 miles over the course of two years through places such as the U.K., India and Tibet. Barbara is a wonderful writer and what's heartbreaking is that she was killed in a cycling accident near her home in California just before the publication of the book. Hers is a voice lost much too soon.

The book is very accessible to all readers. There are already great reviews, so I'll just make this

short... The writer exaggerates a little in her stories. It's because she is trying to convey how she felt during the situations. And that's ok! Just make sure to understand that in her writing she is writing the story of two people, one in a hyper sensitive state of danger, and the other as a leisurely cyclist. If you can separate the two, you will be able to understand how she felt during her trip, emotionally. I think it was important to know how that side of her was, instead of saying, "This scenario was tough!"

Bought this for my dad years ago. He loved it. So did I

When I picked this book up off of the sale table, I thought it might be a bit outdated, (having been written in the late 70's.) What a gem! The chapters on riding in the Middle East are riveting. The chapter on riding in Florida is maddening. The people Barbara and Larry meet throughout their travels are amazing. And as you finish the book, you'll feel genuine sadness that Barbara is no longer with us. I felt as though I lost a friend. With only a few weeks left in the year...I think this one will stay in the top spot for 2003.

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