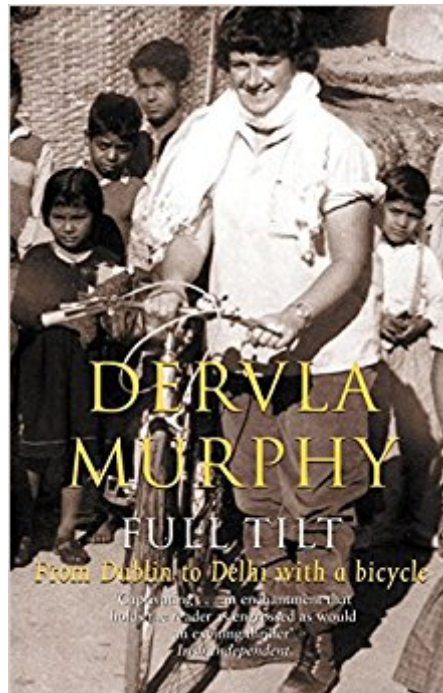




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# Full Tilt: From Dublin To Delhi With A Bicycle



## Synopsis

Shortly after her tenth birthday, Dervla Murphy decided to cycle to India. Almost 20 years later, she set out to achieve her ambition. Her epic journey began during the coldest winter in memory, taking her through Europe, Persia, Afghanistan, over the Himalayas to Pakistan, and into India. This captivating account of Murphy's first is an enchantment that holds the reader to the final page.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Here is the first American appearance of a book by Irish travel writer Murphy. Originally published in 1965, it is the diary of her bicycle trek from Dunkirk, across Europe, through Iran and Afghanistan, over the Himalayas to Pakistan and India. Murphy's immediate rapport with the people she alights among is vibrant and appealing and makes her travelogue unique. Venturing alone accompanied only by her bicycle, which she dubs Roz the indomitable Murphy not only survives daunting physical rigors but gleans considerable enjoyment in getting to know peoples who were then even more remote than they are now. Overlook will also soon publish in uniform editions Murphy's Eight Feet in the Andes, The Waiting Land and On a Shoestring to Coorg. Copyright 1986 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This book recounts a trip, taken mostly on bicycle, by a gritty Irishwoman in 1963. Her route was through Yugoslavia, Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and ended in New Delhi. She carried a pistol, got sunstroke, and suffered the usual stomach disorders. She endured bad accommodations

but reaped much local hospitality, too, including a dinner with the Pakistani president. Most of the book concerns the high mountain country of Afghanistan and Pakistan. First published in England in 1965, the book is neither current, nor quite old enough to be of much historical interest.

Nonetheless, it is a spirited account, suitable for larger public library collections. Unfortunately, it lacks illustrations, and the two maps included give us little idea of the remote areas she visited.

Harold M. Otness, Southern Oregon State Coll. Lib., Ashland  
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This is NOT a review of the book itself, which I loved. It's a complaint about the quality of the content in the Kindle edition. The first 2/3s of the Foreword were missing, so there was no proper introduction to the story itself. (I found this out by comparing my Kindle edition to a paperback that another book club member had.) The rest of the book was strewn with annoying typos. Who is responsible for this?

Reading this books is a fascinating way to travel with Dervla through central Asian and into India, circa 1962. I really enjoyed her eloquently stated commentary and the philosophical insights into her observations. I think I will have to agree about her on the political boundaries and on ancient vs. modern civilizations. This is also an excellent snapshot of that part of the world in 1962. Obviously a lot has changed since then. Riding a bike from Ireland to India, what a magnificent feat in itself! Her observations and reflections on the ancient, remote cultures she comes across in Afganistan and Pakistan are recorded very beautifully and emphatically. She strives to consider all perspectives and in the process adds many dimensions to the story of her travels. Her books is full of deep insights that I think a lucky few in the world will have the opportunity to conclude themselves. As a previous reviewer has put it, "Why isn't Murphy more famous?" I wonder the same! My only guess is that perhaps she hasn't made the rounds on the American circuit... where the mass media machine is more far reaching and dominating. Overall the books is beautifully written in my opinion. Being a native South Asian myself, and having lived in the high peaks of the Himalayas, I find it to be a really interesting foreign perspective on our cultures. Her prose are even more relevant today as swift modernization has really done more harm than good to the indigenous peoples at least on the Indian side of the mighty Himalayas. Meanwhile, war has taken it's toll on the Pakistani/Afghani side. If you are reading this, thank you Dervla, for sharing your beautiful journey with the world. It is an inspiration. Before I conclude this review, I'll share this brief excerpt from the book, one of my few favorites: "The more I see of unmechanized places and people, the more convinced I become that

machines have done incalculable damage by unbalancing the relationship between Man and Nature. The mere fact that we think and talk as we do about Nature is symptomatic. For us to refer to Nature as a separate entity--something we admire or avoid or study or paint--shows how far we've removed ourselves from it.... I suppose all of scientific advances are a wonderful boost for the superior intellect of the human race but what those advances are doing to us seems to me quite literally tragic. After all, only a handful of people are concerned in the excitement and stimulation of discovering and developing, while millions lead feeble and more synthetic lives because of the achievements of that handful... people now use less than half their potential forces because "Progress" has deprived them of the incentive to live fully. I don't know what the end result of all this "progress" will be--something pretty dire, I should think. We remain part of Nature, however startling our scientific advances."

Interesting tale of a plucky lady who makes an unbelievably long journey on a bicycle and comes out relatively unscathed. Along the way, she depends on the kindness of strangers and is never disappointed. Surprisingly, she finds that the poorest are the most generous. She has a good word for the people of most races - Persians,, Afghans and Pakistanis but Indians don't seem to find much favour. The book is also readable for the its descriptions of the beautiful landscapes of Eastern lands.

A wonderful read! There aren't enough superlatives to describe what a great adventure was captured in her daily journals. I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys travel, adventure, learning about other cultures, has a trust of people and places, and especially to those who dare to dream and experience newness or the unexpected! Dervla Murphy was true to her quest and rewarded with an incredible experience - I'm so grateful she shared it with her readers because most of the places in this book would be near difficult for us to visit safely in this day and age. Her storytelling style is the next best thing to having her sitting with you relating her adventure. After a stressful day at work, I could look forward to destressing with Full Tilt! The only consolation in reaching the end of this most enjoyable book which I hoped would never end, was that she has writtten several more travel stories and I immediately ordered three more of her books. She is someone I would love to meet - Dervla - I hope you visit Canada sometime!

"Full Tilt" - a very interesting account of Author's bicycle journey from Ireland all the way through Europe and over towards and ending in India, with no companions. Her account of Afghanistan was

the most fascinating part of the book for me, and her delight in these people was lovely to read. I would have preferred better maps, those provided are unsatisfactory and I thought somewhat vague. Dervla was very brave, respectful, curious, but somewhat naive and even foolhardy at times; cycling over one mountain range she could have died of hunger because it was totally uninhabited and she was unable to get food or shelter. Of course, she didn't cycle ALL the way to India, she got rides along the way. The thing that would strike a reader today, is her casual smoking, and exchange of cigarettes for the hospitality so generously given along the way as people refused to take her money. We must remember her experiences back then, in the 1940's could not be duplicated today because of the increase in guns, drugs other dangers. For that reason, if no other, this is a very interesting book, by a most brave and courageous woman.

I love reading of true life adventures that people get themselves into. This was fun reading in that she didn't write it as a BOOK but as a report to friends of her experiences. Although I am sure there were edits along the way, you really don't get the idea that she is altering the story in any way to please the reader. I greatly admire her braveness and tenacity as she accomplishes feats I don't even dream of trying!

Absolutely amazing. Her heart, soul, courage, kindness, grit, and grind make one proud to be a member of the human race. Really, the bicycling is just a skeleton on which to hang a much greater story. The author is amazingly intelligent, inciteful, and a remarkable writer. Her descriptions of the scenery, and the people who live there, are as good as it gets. A must read, especially for anyone who thinks they are a bicyclist.

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