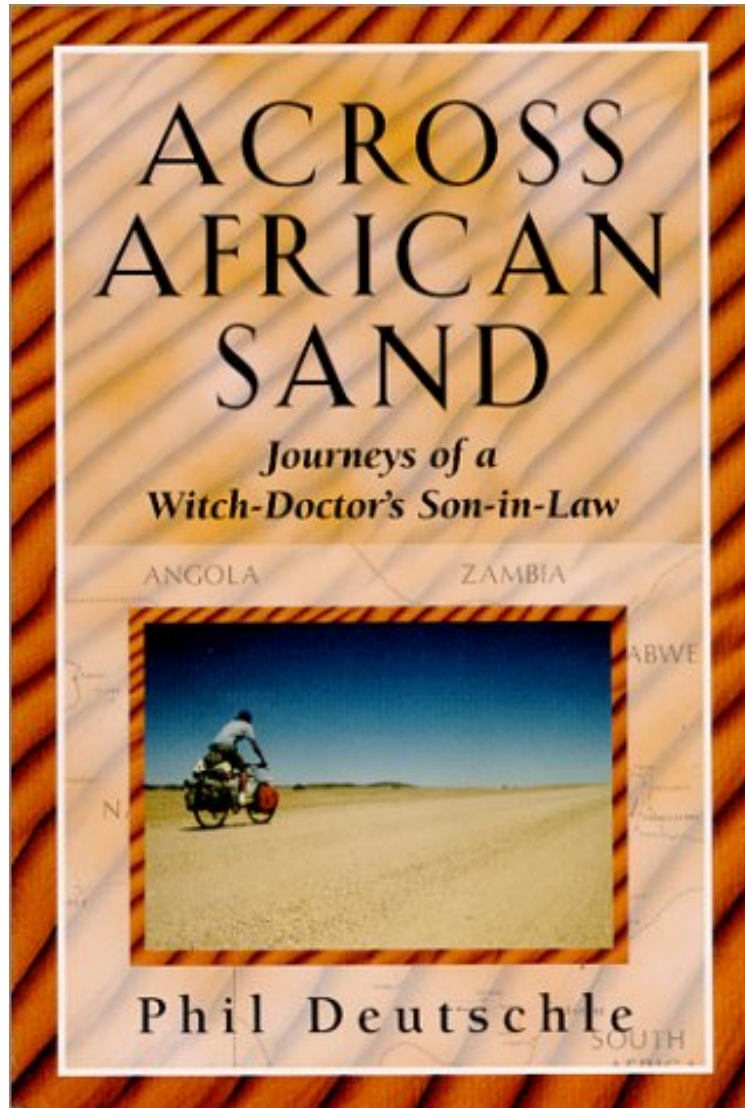


[Library ebook] Across African Sand: Journeys of a Witch-Doctor's Son-in-Law

Across African Sand: Journeys of a Witch-Doctor's Son-in-Law

Phil Deutschle

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Phil Deutschle : Across African Sand: Journeys of a Witch-Doctor's Son-in-Law before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Across African Sand: Journeys of a Witch-Doctor's Son-in-Law:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Interesting tale of Africa By Mark Raven The author provides an unusual view into Africa. He is a teacher and a bicyclist, in that order. I enjoyed what he had to show me about the inner workings of two cultures intersecting (Western and African), and learning with him as he grew during his stay. This is not the most enthralling of books, with a few sections that were a bit tedious, but is still a moderately

recommended read. When you're tired of frothy page-turners, if you feel like a personal history, or reading about teaching kids in Africa, or a personal bicycle tale the book will satisfy. Slower-paced, well enough told. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Highly recommended for bicycling enthusiasts. By Midwest Book Review Across African Sand: Journey Of A Witch Doctor's Son-In-Law is the true life adventure story of Phil Deutschle's bicycle trip across 3,000 miles of African landscape. Along the way Phil was stalked by lions, charged by a herd of enraged elephants, fell in love with (and married) the daughter of a prominent witch doctor. Across African Sand is a compelling, engaging, fascinating biographical travelogue that relates an account of Phil's five years in Botswana (southern Africa) told in the form of flashbacks while he bicycles over the harsh Kalahari and Namib deserts, negotiating difficult African terrain, including soft sand and mud, during the course of his three month cycling adventure. Across African Sand is highly recommended for bicycling enthusiasts, armchair adventurers, and anyone who has ever yearned to travel the world, meet new people, and have adventures of their own! 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A "true" adventure. By Robert Swift Across African Sand is a an excellent example of what true adventure books should be. I emphasize the word "true" not simply to point out that events in the book are factual but to distinguish this work from books describing stunts. (To me a stunt is a once-in-a-lifetime event, filled with harum-scarum that a more skilled traveler would have avoided and usually detailing a significant departure from the main stream of the writer's life.) By contrast, Across African Sand comes across as the logical continuation of Phil Deutschle's career as a teacher and introspective traveler. Prior to embarking on his solo bicycle ride across the Kalahari and Namib deserts, Deutschle has spent three years living and teaching in an out-of-the way village in Botswana. An accomplished linguist, he has become fluent-to-conversant with several local languages, including that of the !Kung (Bushman) people, and thus we learn more of African life and thought than we would at the mercy of a more casual traveler. Deutschle clearly enjoys the company of the various people he falls in with along the way but also relishes the solitude which is such a significant part of his journey. Part of the success of the book is its skillful interweaving of events in the course of his cycling trek with flashbacks to his life as a teacher in a traditional Botswana village. Dimi Press has done a creditable job of putting the book together and its illustrations are great. I wholeheartedly recommend this as an interesting and insightful story of travel and adventure.

The incredible story of a 3,000 mile bicycle trek across the world's largest stretch of sand--the Kalahari and Namib Deserts of Southern Africa. The author relates his fantastic experiences--stalked by lions, charged by a herd of elephants, and his encounters with poisonous snakes, to name a few. He also tells of his numerous observations and experiences in living and teaching in Botswana for three years. These include his marriage to the daughter of a local witch-doctor.

From Library Journal The author, an American-born teacher whose career has been primarily overseas, gives a lively recounting of nearly five years in southern Africa, in the village of Mapoka, Botswana. His stories provide an outsider's view of traditional African society and culture. A dangerous bicycle ride across the Kalahari and Namib deserts provides the framework for telling the story: as he bikes across 3000 miles of sand, dodging lions and elephants, Deutschle describes his life in Botswana through flashbacks. This method makes the book somewhat confusing and difficult to follow. Focusing more on life in Mapoka and less on the desert trip might have been better. Nonetheless this is recommended for public libraries with collections on travel and African culture. --Mark L. Grover, Brigham Young Univ. Lib., Provo, UT Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. A marvelous read for anyone fascinated by Africa, and an adventure book that will satisfy all armchair travelers. -- Matt Dickinson, Author of The Other Side of Everest Across African Sand is more than a fascinating adventure story, it is a hero's journey. -- Al Siebert, Ph.D., Author of The Survivor Personality The author, an American-born teacher whose career has been primarily overseas, gives a lively recounting of nearly five years in southern Africa, in the village of Mapoka, Botswana. His stories provide an outsiders view of traditional African society and culture. A dangerous bicycle ride across the Kalahari and Namib deserts provides the framework for telling the story: as he bikes across 3000 miles of sand, dodging lions and elephants, Deutschle describes his life in Botswana through flashbacks. This method makes the book somewhat confusing and difficult to follow. Focusing more on life in Mapoka and less on the desert trip might have been better. Nonetheless this is recommended for public libraries with collections on travel and African culture. -- Mark L. Grover, Brigham Young Univ. Lib., Provo, UT Vivid descriptions of personal danger and physical endurance. An immensely rewarding book. -- Hilary Bradt, publisher of Bradt Travel Guides About the Author Phil Deutschle is a great adventurer, travel writer, science teacher, and the author of "The Two Year Mountain that tells of his adventures in Nepal.