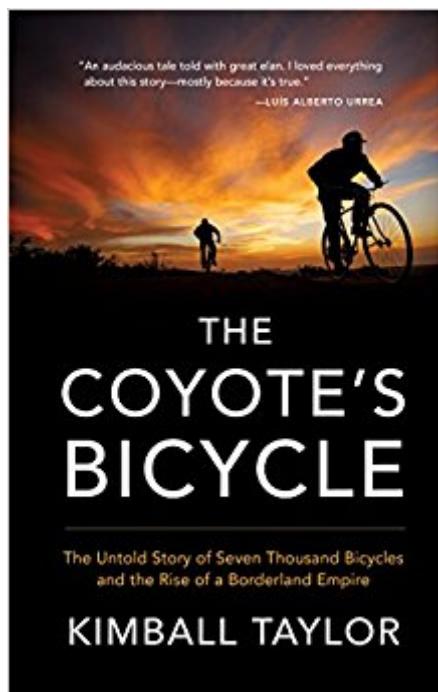


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The Coyote's Bicycle: The Untold Story Of 7,000 Bicycles And The Rise Of A Borderland Empire



Synopsis

For readers of Jon Krakauer and Susan Orlean, *The Coyote's Bicycle* brings to life a never-before-told phenomenon at our southern border, and the human drama of those that would cross. It wasn't surprising when the first abandoned bicycles were found along the dirt roads and farmland just across the border from Tijuana, but before long they were arriving in droves. The bikes went from curiosity, to nuisance, to phenomenon. But until they caught the eye of journalist Kimball Taylor, only a small cadre of human smugglers—“coyotes”—and migrants could say how or why they'd gotten there. And only through Taylor's obsession did another curious migratory pattern emerge: the bicycles' movement through the black market, Hollywood, the prison system, and the military-industrial complex. This is the story of 7,000 bikes that made an incredible journey and one young man from Oaxaca who arrived at the border with nothing, built a small empire, and then vanished. Taylor follows the trail of the border bikes through some of society's most powerful institutions, and, with the help of an unlikely source, he reconstructs the rise of one of Tijuana's most innovative coyotes. Touching on immigration and globalization, as well as the history of the US/Mexico border, *The Coyote's Bicycle* is at once an immersive investigation of an outrageous occurrence and a true-crime, rags-to-riches story.

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Customer Reviews

The true story that Kimball Taylor relates is as intriguing as it is revealing about the situation on our southern border. Our new President swears he will build a wall and make Mexico pay for it but to what end? Listen to what one man in the book has to say about a border "wall". "The United States government does visible, grandiose things in order to be seen," Julian said, "like the enormous walls they build. But they themselves know it does no good. They do it just so the people will see they are doing something to combat the flow." In other words, the flow of migrants from our southern neighbors is unstoppable. As long as there are those suffering oppression or poverty in their home countries there are people who are willing to do anything to reach the U.S. The book doesn't delve into stories about the migrants attempting to cross the border but rather on those that help them do it. Some of them, like the "hero" of this book, do it in an honorable manner and take care of their "chickens" unlike the ones we usually read about who strand people in trucks and abandon them to their fate. An eye opener for sure.

My bicycle was stolen a few years ago. I can now imagine what happened to it. Kimball Taylor stumbled upon a complex tale of human trafficking along the US-Mexico border when he stumbled across thousands of abandoned bicycles in the canyons and ranches immediately north of the border. While others took the existence of these bikes for granted, he thought to wonder how they came to be there. Taylor's storytelling almost makes you forget the years of research it took to follow the bikes on a trail that was dangerous, and almost non-existent at times. Refreshingly, the facts are retold without judgement as to whether the border issues are right or wrong. I did find the story a bit dry at times and a bit hard to follow. Nevertheless, it's a fascinating look into another world!

I really do not write many reviews. The exceptions are products that are exceedingly wonderful or those that just suck. This book is exceedingly wonderful. The author tells many stories that are layered. The plot goes backwards, forward, and sideways. This makes for a very interesting read. This is also a very timely revelation about what is going on at our border. It seems to me building a

gigantic wall is a waste of money because as someone in the book says: "It is all smoke and mirrors. There is always another way."

This is a story of many stories written in a way for the reader to interpret from their own experience. There is no beginning or end, just the turning of the wheel of humanity from one opportunity to another.

The Coyote's Bicycle is truly a modern day legend. Kimball's descriptive comparisons are interesting and imaginative and the story takes you down a winding path of astounding yet simple ingenuity. The storyline as well as the likeable characters within, forced me into an entirely new viewpoint concerning migrant crossing, Borderland Security and the people themselves. Not only have I recommended this book to friends, I will be re-reading it again soon myself. In my opinion, this story is more important now than ever for the times we live in. I personally give huge thanks to Kimball for bringing us this epic tale of outlaw heroism.

A great read about bikes and their ability to become many different things to different people. A really enjoyable story that is particularly relevant to today's political climate.

This story was amazing. Brought to life the borders of our country and Mexico in a vibrant enjoyable well crafted way.

Visiting Tijuana for a language course and cultural immersion. This book provided me with a new look on immigration and resourcefulness. Recommended.

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