

## TWO TALES, TWO WHEELS, TWO CONTINENTS

**W**hat can you say about Glen Heggstad? Known as the “Striking Viking,” this Californian is one heckuva man to have survived being taken and tortured by Colombian rebels during a motorcycle traverse of South America. His perseverance and discipline leave the reader awed, not to mention relieved, when he is finally rescued and continues his journey. You can’t take anything away from what Heggstad endured.

Unfortunately, his book, *Two Wheels Through Terror*, probably should have ended about the time he was trucked to safety by the Red Cross, once the reader was assured that Heggstad would survive and

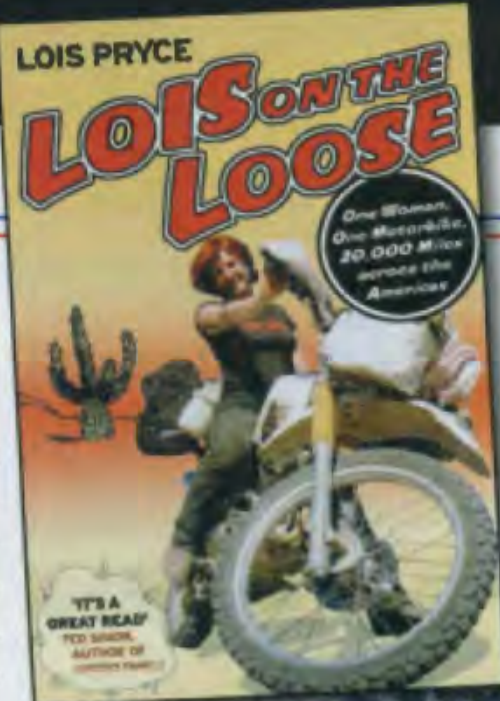
ultimately thrive (and write books, star in videos, lead adventure rides, make personal appearances, et cetera). Instead, Heggstad defiantly continued his journey to the southernmost tip of South America and then rode all the way back to Palm Springs. And he tells us “the rest of the story” in agonizing detail. Although I finished the entire book I came very close to putting it down after repeated “entries” from Heggstad’s journal about what a man of the people he is, yes, he even loves the Colombian rebels who captured, starved, marched, and otherwise brutalized him. And really, I could hardly believe what I was reading as he waxed poetic about a sunset:

“Daylight fades into black velvet night as the finale of this cosmic orgasm. The sky pops with diamonds cast magically across the void – precious sparkling jewels from far away, yet near enough to caress my skin like raindrops on my fingertips.” Did the earth move for you?

The only thing about Glen is perhaps, just perhaps, he takes himself a tad too seriously. On the other hand, close on the heels of finally slogging through the last pithy words of *Two Wheels Through Terror*, I picked up (thanks to the recommendation of Ride Oklahoma’s own “uncommon man” Ricky Brooks) *Lois on the Loose*, the delightful and witty account of Lois Pryce’s journey the length of the Americas to yes, the same spot Heggstad was shooting for, Ushuaia, the southernmost town in South America. It is fascinating to juxtapose their two tales.

**P**ryce was working in a London office of the BBC when she decided it was time to scratch her itch to travel in a big way. It was natural for the BSA aficionado to choose a motorcycle as her vehicle of choice, but somewhat less obvious to me was her choice of the Yamaha XT 225 as her means of travel. (The bike is sold as a “Serow” in Great Britain). In “Lois on the Loose,” Pryce engagingly describes her effort to verify Robert Louis Stevenson’s hypothesis that “It is better to travel hopefully than to arrive.” I’ll leave it to you to discover her findings but suffice it to say I read the book in two good sittings and intend to order her new book about a trans-Africa trip. Yes, she’s does videos and personal appearances, too!

Impressive enough is that



Pryce made the journey on such a small bike and notable to me since I own and love one of the same models (though a newer version). She gets into scrapes but doesn’t sink into melodrama in the telling of it. Instead, she intrigues the reader with her matter-of-fact humor and optimism, even as she travels some of the same difficult terrain described in painstaking (and painful) detail by Heggstad.

I guess maybe Heggstad wanted to do the trip the hardest way possible, although obviously he didn’t plan on being kidnapped by guerillas, and Pryce just wanted to do the trip. In either case, while I was entertained by both accounts, on the one hand mildly so and on the other hand quite so, neither story encouraged me to make the same journey. But bravo to those who do. I can’t wait to read about it!

*Two Wheels Through Terror* and *Lois on the Loose* are both available through Whitehorse Press, [www.whitehorsepress.com](http://www.whitehorsepress.com).

*Yeah! We can Dyno that...*



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