

2Up and Overloaded

Chicago to Panama

Book review by Susan Drago

Author: Tim Notier (Notier's Frontiers)

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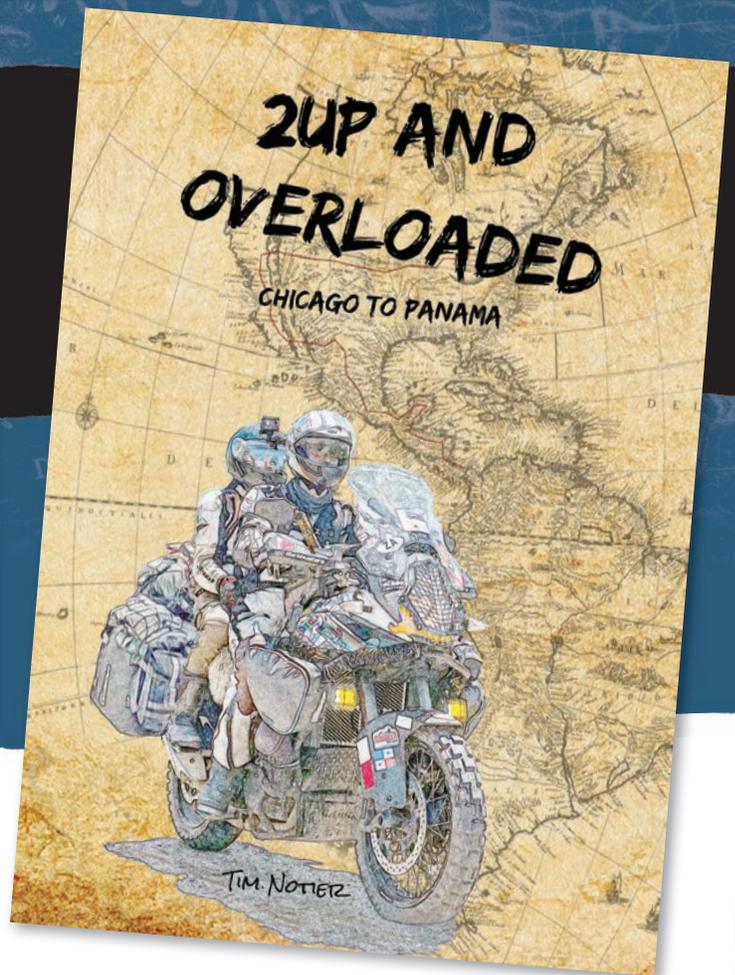
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It's been well over two years since I reviewed Tim Notier's first book, *Maiden Voyage*, in these pages. That volume was the prequel to the story of Tim's round-the-world trip with wife Marisa on their big *KTM*, and *2Up and Overloaded* provides the next chapter in the couple's saga. My five-star rating speaks to the entertainment value of Tim's writing, which is descriptive and humorous, bringing the reader along eagerly on the couple's motorcycle journey from Chicago to Colombia, across the American West, down the Baja California peninsula, across mainland Mexico, and through Central America. The book ends with their successful arrival in Cartagena, Colombia after a five-day ocean journey from Panama.

Along the way, Tim and Marisa take time to soak up local cultures and see the sights, so there's a lot more to this travelogue than riding a motorcycle. Tim's storytelling is refreshing and devoid of self-importance. His gentle irreverence and self-deprecating humor combine with detailed accounts of the people and places he encounters, along with thoughtful reflections on what it all means to him, though he never takes himself too seriously.

For example, he writes this from Mexico:

"I was trying to follow the solid yellow line on the right side of the road. It vanished into the fog so quickly that I barely had enough time to react when it gracefully turned in one direction or the other. It was scary as hell because the yellow line would sneakily twist left, and then, immediately behind it, the guardrail would appear literally out of nowhere



as it sprinted alongside me. Thank God for the guardrails; even if they seemed intimidating, they were the last visual clue that the road was no longer traveling in a straight line.

"We rode slowly, but we were still riding a little bit faster than the trucks that appeared like ghost ships through the mist. Passing was out of the question, so I just butted up to a semi that was in front of us, being sure to give them enough room to slow down for turns when needed. It was much easier playing the role of a caboose than the locomotive as we wound our way through the mountains."

While I also enthusiastically enjoyed *Maiden Journey*, *2Up and Overloaded* represents not only an advancement in the *Notier's Frontiers* RTW journey but also a more polished writing style. As of this writing, in the midst of the CV19 pandemic, Tim and Marisa are in Kenya. I am looking forward to the next installment in their book series as they continue their RTW, but for now you can follow their progress at **NotiersFrontiers.com** or on social media. **ADV**