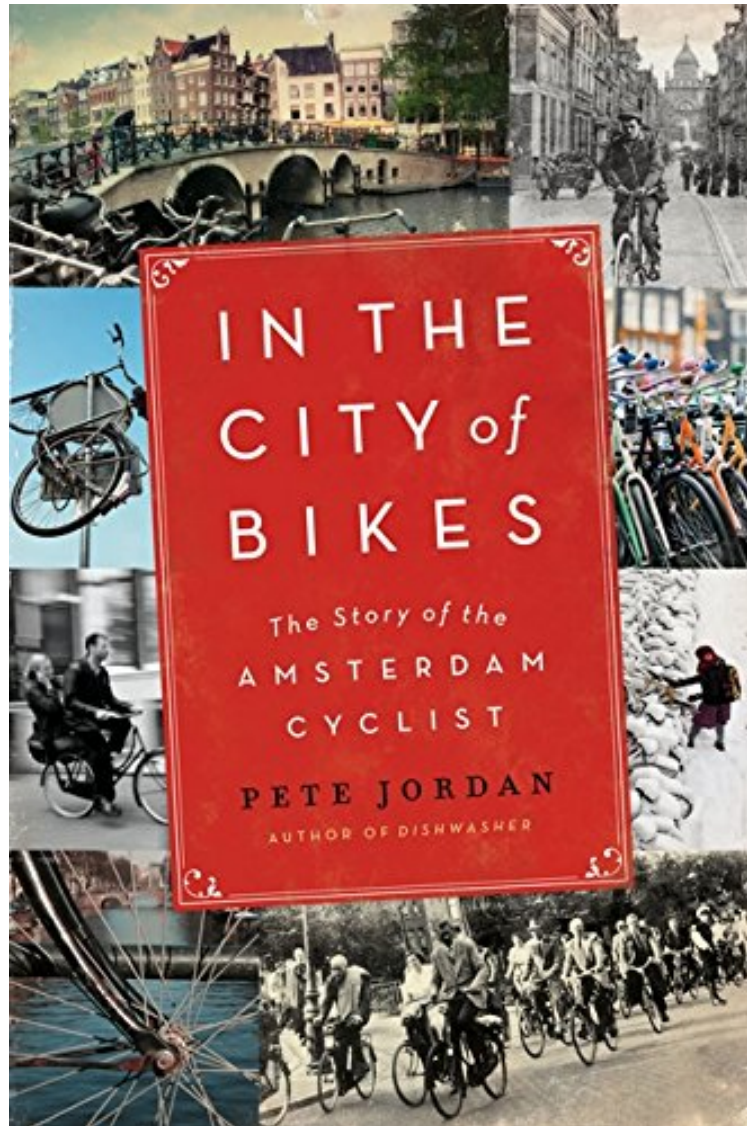


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## In the City of Bikes: The Story of the Amsterdam Cyclist

*Pete Jordan*

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**Pete Jordan : In the City of Bikes: The Story of the Amsterdam Cyclist** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised In the City of Bikes: The Story of the Amsterdam Cyclist:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Entertaining and educational at the same time By aldounsw Living in Texas in a city that is has stated to embrace Bicycling, it is my constant frustration to realize how far behind we are from a City like Amsterdam. Every trip that I've made to Europe, I always come back dreaming about our city

transforming into the Copenhagen or Amsterdam or Berlin of America... This book opened my eyes about the most difficult situations that we are yet to encounter if Fort Worth Texas, the city of speedy HUGE pick up trucks (driven by careless youngsters who can't take away their eyes from their phones while driving) is to become one day a city like Amsterdam.7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Great ReadBy JackWe love this book. My wife is Dutch and we met in her home city of Amsterdam. During her life in Amsterdam she used her bike as her sole method of transportation -- she did not learn how to drive an car until she moved to America. Of course I purchaed a real Dutch bike as a gift and she proudly uses it. A black Dutch working bike along with a skirt protector which she uses it to retrieve mail at the post office -- she gets many great comments on her bike. This book brings back so many great memories for her, and she gives the book high praise for its history on biking in Amsterdam, mutch of which she was unaware of. Well written and very enteraining for anyone who has a knowledge of Dutch culture, we highly recommend the book for anyone who is a cycling enthusiast.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Fun book for anyone who lives or has spent time in AmsterdamBy Eliot MarxI read Pete Jordan having lived for 35 years in the center of the city, and because of his book I finally understand why the normally tolerant Dutch become feral on bicycles. It's a must read for anyone who wants to stay in Amsterdam without suffering bouts of rage directed at the cyclists in the city.

Pete Jordan, author of the wildly popular *Dishwasher: One Man's Quest to Wash Dishes in All Fifty States*, is back with a memoir that tells the story of his love affair with Amsterdam, the city of bikes, all the while unfolding an unknown history of the city's cycling, from the craze of the 1890s, through the Nazi occupation, to the bike-centric culture adored by the world todayPete never planned to stay long in Amsterdam, just a semester. But he quickly falls in love with the city and soon his wife, Amy Joy, joins him. Together they explore every inch of their new home on two wheels, their rides a respite from the struggles that come with starting a new life in a new country. Weaving together personal anecdotes and details of the role that cycling has played throughout Dutch history, Pete Jordan's *In the City of Bikes: The Story of the Amsterdam Cyclist* is a poignant and entertaining read.

From BooklistIn 2002, the newlywed American author came to Amsterdam to study urban planning for five months. He, his wife, and his son live there still, filled with the relentless optimism that laces this book. Need a work visa in a tight labor market? Just be a janitor at a garbage-processing plant. Low funds and two-room apartments? Who cares when you're holding your pregnant wife's hand as she bikes along beside you? That's right. Everyone bikes in Amsterdam: the elderly, the brief-cased, the ladder-carrying, the ballroom-gowned. All without helmets. No history of bicycles is complete without a history of bike thievery, and Jordan delivers. The long section on the German occupation has isolated strong points but bogs down listing anything that relates to bikes. American cities lack the critical mass of cyclists to earn adequate bike lanes, yet too few cycle if they have to wear a helmet. So it is odd that an expatriate whose dream job is to monitor all forms of traffic doesn't say much about this quandary or why cycling is more fun for the Dutch. --Dane Carr "A funny, engaging, and exhaustively researched tribute to Amsterdam's unique biking history....Jordan is an honest, self-effacing narrator, and there's much that's lovably comic about his inauguration into Amsterdam cyclo-culture." (Los Angeles Times)"A charming and quirky book....Jordan's portrait of bicycle culture in Amsterdam gives a fascinating account of a viable alternative to dependence on cars." (Christian Science Monitor)"This highly readable book illuminates the bicycle's integral role in shaping both the psyche and the actual city of Amsterdam." (Houston Chronicle)"For anyone contemplating visiting or living in The Netherlands, *In the City of Bikes* is a must read." (New York Journal of Books)"Full of personal anecdote, self-deprecating humor, local lore and a history of cycling that positively bursts with enthusiasm, *In the City of Bikes* is both a memoir and an ode to bicycles (Shelf Awareness)"[W]hat could have been a straightforward history [is] something more special: history that doesn't feel like history--just an enjoyable story from start to finish....An excellent choice for bikers and those who appreciate how a city's history can be changed by the simplest of passions." (Kirkus s)"Jordan brings depth and color to a niche subject, delivering an engaging cultural history. By the end, readers will understand that the bike is to Amsterdam what the car is to America. Both are more than modes of transportation: they're a substantial part of their riders' identities." (Publishers Weekly)From the Back CoverWhen Pete Jordan arrives in Amsterdam to study how to make America's cities more bicycle-friendly, he immediately falls in love with the city that already lives life on two wheels. His new bride, Amy Joy, joins Pete, and despite their financial hardships and instability, she eventually finds her own new calling as a bicycle mechanic as Pete discovers the untold history of cycling in Amsterdam.From its beginnings as an elitist pastime in the 1890s to the street-consuming craze of the 1920s, from the bicycle's role in a citywide resistance to the Nazi occupation to the White Bikes of the 1960s and the bike fishermen of today, Jordan chronicles the evolution of Amsterdam's cycling.Part personal memoir, part history of cycling, part fascinating street-level tour of Amsterdam, *In the City of Bikes* is the story of a man who loves bikes—in a city that loves bikes.