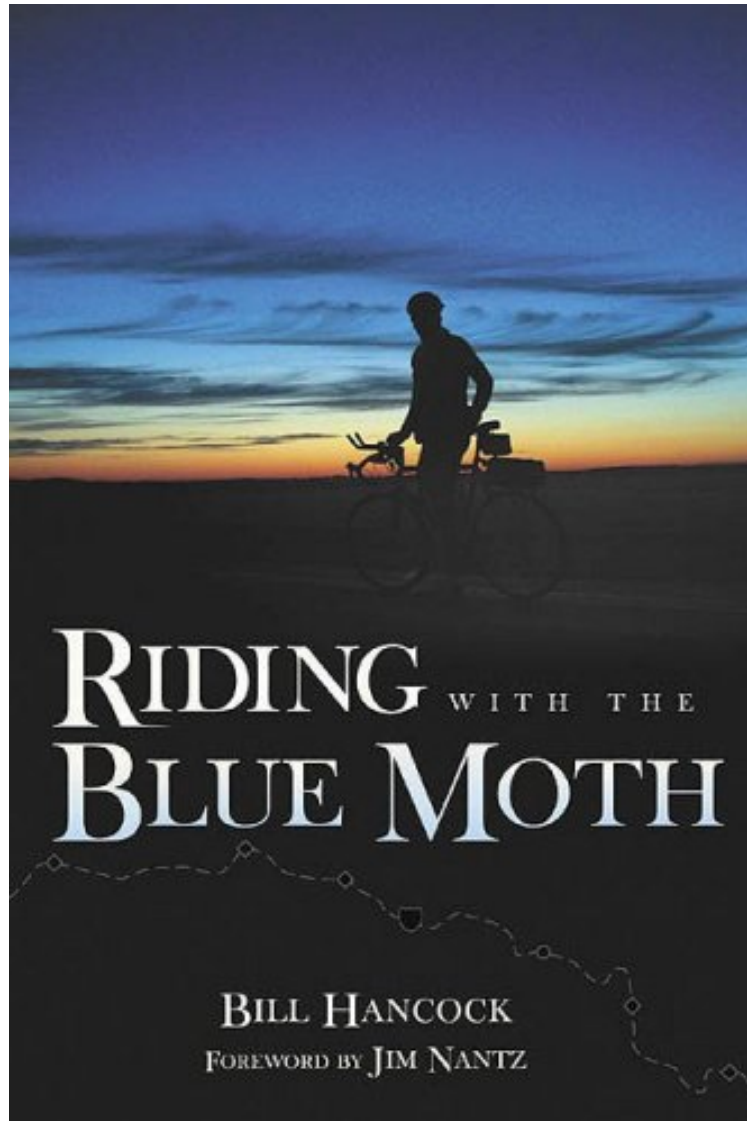


(Free pdf) Riding with the Blue Moth

Riding with the Blue Moth

Bill Hancock

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Bill Hancock : Riding with the Blue Moth before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Riding with the Blue Moth:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Striving for Meaning on Two Wheels By Carl From the perspective of a trans-am rider, the author captures the highs and lows of this kind of journey quite well and keeps the reader's attention on that aspect of the book. Considering the circumstances of the ride itself, it is a remarkable testament to parental loss, love, and striving for meaning after an unexplainable heart-rending tragedy. I found myself grabbing a highlighter as I read through this book marking off all the passages and reflections that were so very familiar to anyone

having experienced the grieving process in the early days" of grief (his bike ride took place only six months after his son Will was killed in a plane crash). From all the volumes written about loss, this is a work that I definitely recommend and one I dearly appreciate. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Bill Hancock does an excellent job of conveying his family's feelings after the tragic ...By Jim D McMinnBill Hancock does an excellent job of conveying his family's feelings after the tragic crash of the Oklahoma State University plane in 2001. The death of a child has to be one of life's toughest experiences. It is obvious that Bill and Nicki's faith was instrumental in helping them get through the ordeal, and I'm sure it continues to help them years later. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Heartwarming True StoryBy Rick SpellBill Hancock has a parent's worst nightmare, death of a child in a tragic accident. How do you survive and re-establish your life? How do you interact with the many people who don't know how to respond to your grief? How do you just put one foot in front of the other each day and how hard is it? This book explains all of this in a poignant manner. You will be in tears in the first chapter and again at the end but you will learn about dealing with the death of a loved one, about the beauty of our country and its people, and about a wonderful couple willing to share their story which may help many others. I could not recommend this book higher.NOTE: I heard of this book from "Outside the Lines" the Espn weekly show which discussed the 10 year anniversary of the OK St. basketball team plane crash. Bill was on the show and the title of his book was mentioned. You can tell from his short time on the show that he was a man of character and humility. Next time you decide to ride your bike across country Bill, don't do it cold turkey. At least train!

After the death of his son Will in the 2001 airplane crash that took the lives of nine additional members of the Oklahoma State basketball team and support staff, survival became a common word in Bill Hancock's vocabulary. For Hancock, the former director of the NCAA men's basketball tournament, survival meant discovering a path back to a near normal life. That path took him on his dream journey, from the Pacific Ocean to the Atlantic by bicycle, and the 2,747-mile journey from the Pacific Coast to the Atlantic Coast became more than just a distraction. It became a pilgrimage, even if Hancock did not realize it upon dipping his rear tire in the Pacific Ocean near Huntington Beach, California, in the wee hours of a July morning. On his two-wheel trip, Hancock battled searing heat and humidity, curious dogs, unforgiving motorists, and the occasional speed bump usually a dead armadillo. His thoughts returned to common themes: memories of his son Will, the prospect of life without Will for him and his wife, and the "blue moth" of grief and depression. That pesky moth fluttered around Hancock as if he were a beaming lamp pole in an empty parking lot. Some people suggested he cope with medication; others advised him to get back to his job as coordinator of the NCAA men's basketball tournament as soon as possible. He found himself a glutton for his own punishment, however, unable to shake that blue moth from shadowing him on each step of his everyday routine. So Hancock chose to battle the beast one-on-one, taking the moth on the ride of its life across America in the hopes of shaking free of its constraints. Maybe he could lose it around a corner in one of the small towns through which he would traverse, like Hope, Arizona; Chickasha, Oklahoma; Onward, Mississippi; or Pleasant Hill, Georgia. Finally, on a muggy August morning, he dipped his front wheel into the Atlantic Ocean along the Georgia coastline of Tybee Island. The bothersome blue moth was still loitering nearby, but by completion of the trek the pest had taken on a new role for Hancock. It would not be drowned in either ocean, or in the buckets of perspiration he shed along the highways of this country. At last the weary cyclist was ready to accept that the moth would be with him for the longer haul.

From BooklistThis cycling memoir, written by the coordinator of the NCAA "March Madness" basketball tournament, begins in 2001, when Hancock's son, Will, died in an airplane crash, along with several members of the Oklahoma State basketball team and its staff. Grief stricken, the author and his wife stumbled through their daily routines, unable to conceive of anything that would bring them back to some sort of normality. Then inspiration struck. The author decided to follow through with a project he had been planning before his son's death: a cross-country bicycle trip. With his wife as his SAG (a biker acronym, meaning "support and guidance"), Hancock embarked on a journey that would take him from shore to shore and from numbing grief to new life. Much more than a sports book, this is an exploration of desolation and the incredible lengths we sometimes have to go to conquer it. Only the very cold reader will get through this one without shedding a few tears. David PittCopyright American Library Association. All rights reservedAbout the AuthorBill Hancock is a grandfather, musician, writer, outdoorsman, marathon runner, and former director of musical-theater productions. A graduate of the University of Oklahoma, he now works as the first full-time administrator of the Bowl Championship Series (BCS). He was previously an administrator of the NCAA men's basketball tournament. Hancock also served in various administrative roles at the University of Oklahoma and the old Big Eight Conference, making his ties throughout college sports extensive. He has volunteered for the USOC at six summer Olympic games.