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Posted on 14 October 2017 By George Mahood

(Book) $\hat{}$ Free Country: A Penniless
Adventure the Length of Britain \tilde{O} eBook

or E-pub free

See of my book reviews on my blog, Literary FlitsI haven't giggled at a book so much as this for ages Free Country is a very funny memoir as well as being a timely read to restore a little of my faith in Britain and British people in these divisive Brexit times George and his friend Ben set out from Land's End with no preparation, no money, no gear and almost no clothes, just a half-baked idea that the kindness and generosity of the Great British Public will see them through 1000 miles to John O Groats And spoiler alert most of the time they are proved right.I sometimes entertain ideas of undertaking a long distance walk or cycle ride myself before thinking better of it and I know a guy who cycled the 1000 mile LEJOG so I have an idea of just how tough it would be To add in so many deliberate difficulties is, I think, mind-numbingly daft but it does make for a great story and wonderfully entertaining reading I loved George's sense of humour and laughed out loud so many times that my partner started making remarks about still reading That Book He's now reading it himself For fans of quirky journey memoirs, eccentric Brit adventures and humorous stories, this is definitely one for the TBR list. This is the true story of George and Ben who decide to bike the End to End challenge, which is a 1,000 mile journey from the south of Britain to the north of Scotland in 3 weeks To make it even challenging, they set out barefoot with no money, no food or water, wearing only a pair of boxers Oh yeah, and no bikes They must rely on the kindness and generosity of strangers Their first challenge is to acquire shoes and clothing Oh yeah, and bikes Then each day, they must find food, water, and shelter for the night Somehow they manage to find plenty of beer and wind up at a whiskey tasting I thoroughly enjoyed the banter between George and Ben as they bicker and disagree George relates the story in an amusing manner while taking us through each small town and introducing us to the people who help them along the way They literally sing for their supper one day and someone gives them donuts to stop I highly recommend this fun and entertaining book. Many great travelogues have at their centre a streak of insanity what made this couple uproot from cosy Surrey and start keeping bees in Roumania What made this family of seven want to sail the Pacific Ocean in a dinghy Free Country takes this insanity to a whole new level two barmy Brits decide to bike ride the full length of the UK, from Land's End to John O Groats, in just three weeks with no clothing except the boxer shorts they stand up in, no food, no money and no bikes Why you might ask What special kind of madness is this The simple answer is to prove the kindness of strangers Britain is not broken, the author and friend Ben have us believe We are not a nation that has lost sight of basic values of humanity and kinship, there lies within everyone the desire to help others And so the plucky twosome plunge into their 1000 mile journey without money and provisions, relying entirely on the mercy and generosity of strangers to get them through.Starting out with one trainer and half a pair of socks, graduating to a pair of wellies

four sizes too small and six pairs of the biggest socks in existence, the pair acquire a scooter and a mini BX and are on their way What follows is the road trip to end all road trips a kind of Around the World in Eighty Days meets Around Ireland with a Fridge with a bevy of colourful characters crazy, pizza tossing Arek, even crazier phone freak Roobals, Glastonbury legend Michael Eavis and, for me at least, a belly laugh on practically every page My favourite line It is bloody cold and windy on the top of a mountain in a pair of silky shorts and a T shirt Well yeah, it must be I was genuinely sad when the dustbin diving duo, having slept in a cling filmed polytunnel, a hitman s sitting room, and a stable with an unexpected Surprise in it and having survived on pic n mix and beige food for 18 days finally approached the finish line I was hoping they might microwave another pair of underpants. A Kindle Bargain Price treat Laugh out loud Fall in love with George and Ben Be touched by the humanity kindness generosity of the people of Britain. Imagine YOU were on this adventure Starting out with no clothes, only a pair of boxer shorts , no money, no food, no water, no bike And the plan is to take 3 weeks of your life getting from Lands End to Scotland by BIKE remember, you have no bike Free Country is written by George great hotshot writer I was able to smell the food they were eating, most of it beige colorlol , have clear visuals of the country sense what it was like in the different small villages, and experience the many people they came into contact with people who gave them food, bikes, places to sleep, clothes, BEER, tools for their bikes, support and good cheer Wonderfully Entertaining fall on the floor laughing a few times and almost wet your pants There were these two guys standing in the sharp gravel at Land s End naked and shoeless except for boxer shorts emblazoned with the Union Jack. Sounds like a joke, but it is the true story of George and Ben, who were about to set out on a trip from Britain s southernmost tip to the northern tip of Scotland, a distance of about 1,000 miles Nothing unusual about that many had done it before them on foot or by bicycle But their trip has a twist They are going to make the trip without spending a penny Starting out in just their underwear, they would make the trip by relying on their fellow Brits to provide them with clothing, food, lodging and bicycles The story of their madcap adventure and the characters they met along the way is a delight to read. George Mahood s writing style almost lets the trip tell its own story I love Bryson s books a heap, but Mahoud holds his own with this book I heartily recommend this book to anyone I guarantee you ll find yourself laughing many times along the 1,000 mile trip. When I wasn t laughing, I was sharing in the pain of these two penniless young dudes on their seemingly foolhardy bicycle journey from the south of England to the north of Scotland Begging for food and shelter and dependent on the kindness of strangers, it s a travel book like no other Do yourself a favor and read it.

George Mahood

FREE COUNTRY

A penniless adventure the length of Britain



This book is great The plan is simple George and Ben have three weeks to cycle 1000 miles from the bottom of England to the top of Scotland There s just one small problem they have no bikes, no clothes, no food and no money Setting off in just a pair of Union Jack boxer shorts, they attempt to rely on the generosity of the British public for everything from food to accommodation, clothes to shoes, and bikes to beer I found it funny, touching, and

went some way to restore my faith in human nature George and Ben are both officially very nice people I really loved this book It was uplifting and funny The fast pace and narrative style made it virtually impossible to put down I really needed to know what happened next The narration was akin to sitting down with a friend regaling the crowd with his crazy, guess what silly thing I did, story In times like these, it s really nice to read something that reminds me that most people are inherently good But seriously, if I were one of these guys, I would ve started with a pair of good walking shoes (Book) ã Free Country: A Penniless Adventure the Length of Britain Î The Plan Is Simple George And Ben Have Three Weeks To Cycle Miles From The Bottom Of England To The Top Of Scotland There Is Just One Small Problem They Have No Bikes, No Clothes, No Food And No Money Setting Off In Just A Pair Of Union Jack Boxer Shorts, They Attempt To Rely On The Generosity Of The British Public For Everything From Food To Accommodation, Clothes To Shoes, And Bikes To Beer During The Most Hilarious Adventure, George And Ben Encounter Some Of Great Britain S Most Eccentric And Extraordinary Characters And Find Themselves In The Most Ridiculous Situations Free Country Is Guaranteed To Make You Laugh You May Even Shed A Tear It Will Restore Your Faith In Humanity And Leave You With A Big Smile On Your Face And A Warm Feeling Inside This book is insipid I wanted to finish it, but it wasn t physically possible I rolled my eyes so often it was difficult to get to the bottom of a page The jokes are so relentless, that they quite interfere with what might have been a sweet travel memoir, detailing the stories and idiosyncrasies of ordinary folks in the British countryside I was disappointed.

New Post

Fire Bringer

Into the Wild

The Cricket in Times Square

A Bear Called Paddington

The Amazing Maurice and His Educated Rodents

The Last Unicorn

Just So Stories

Wild Magic
The Rescuers
Bambi
The Sight
Three Bags Full
Time Cat
Lirael
The Story of Doctor Dolittle

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The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe
Animal Farm
Winnie-the-Pooh
Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH
The Golden Compass
The Wind in the Willows
Redwall
The Wonderful Wizard of Oz
Alice's Adventures in Wonderland & Through the Looking-Glass
The Jungle Book
The Velveteen Rabbit
Stuart Little
Bunnicula
The Phantom Tollbooth
Black Beauty
The Tale of Despereaux
The 101 Dalmatians
James and the Giant Peach
Fantastic Mr. Fox
The Mouse and the Motorcycle
The Chronicles of Narnia
The Tale of Peter Rabbit
The Trumpet of the Swan
The Little Prince
Fire Bringer

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