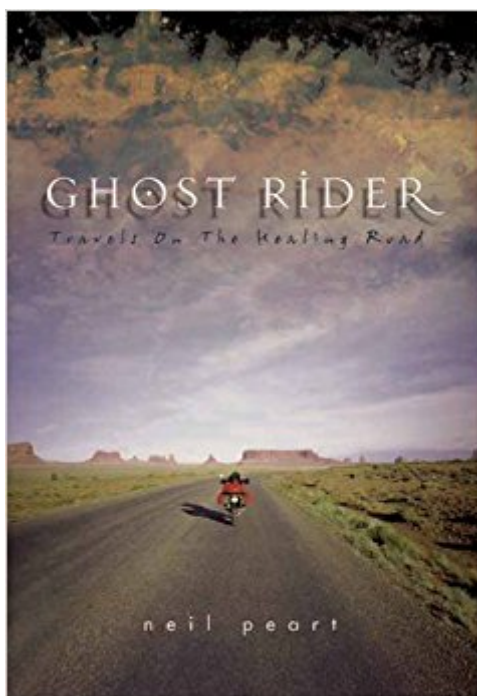


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# Ghost Rider: Travels On The Healing Road



## Synopsis

This bold narrative written by the drummer and lyricist for the band Rush shows how Peart tried to stay alive by staying on the move after the loss of his 19-year-old daughter and his wife. The book will be sold as part of the band's official merchandise during its 47-city American tour. 20 photos. 15 maps.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Peart's story reminded me of Theodore Roosevelt's travel West to overcome the sorrow of losing his wife and mother..." -- Mike Fink, CNN Headline News

Neil Peart is the drummer and lyricist for the rock band Rush and the author of *Masked Rider*. He lives in Toronto, Canada.

It helps that I've read the other books from Neil Peart and find his travels fascinating, pleasant to read and allows me to feel his journey as if it were my own. Reading *The Healing Road*, then moving to *Far & Away* and finishing up with *Far & Near*, it is like; even if only a little bit, like sitting on his shoulder as Neil travels the road of life and sometimes death. I am well aware of Neil's aversion to worship, however sometimes it is the impetus to do things subconsciously that we really wanted to do anyway, however we just don't have the push. *The Healing Road* led me to buy my first "real" motorcycle at 52 years of age (no, it was not midlife crisis) The travels in all three books gives me the urge to just ride and enjoy the moments we see and the people along the way. There is good

writing and pictures that give life to the story. There is also the unwritten parts that explain how the "Working Guy's" get along so well while living such different lives off the stage and out of the rehearsal halls. Now, if I could just figure out the meaning to the words in "The Tree's".

I started reading this book expecting to understand a little more about how Neil Peart came to grips with his grief over losing his family, but instead I got an unedited, mostly boring travel narrative sprinkled with flashes of humor and wit. The book really only serves one function - getting (a little) into the head of a complex, intelligent musician adored by Rush fans world-wide. For that reason it deserves 3 stars, but DO NOT expect Rush-lyrics-style writing. Maybe we've just been spoiled. I was also vastly disappointed with Neil's apparent disinterest in his fans, to the point of ridicule. As a contrast, I met Geddy Lee a number of years ago in Cleveland, Ohio - he was at an album-signing, staying hours and hours chatting with fans. He was open, smiling, and seemingly happy to "give a little back" to the people . . . something Neil clearly would not do (at least based on his book). Perhaps his new relationship will help change that attitude. Also, the book is unfinished really. Suddenly, after over 400+ dark & gloomy pages, two years fly by and the grieving Neil is quickly married and optimistic. Since he decided to write this book, I would much rather have learned of his inner thoughts about his tragedy (as opposed to the books he read and the meals he ate), and maybe even more about Jackie and Selena, especially when his dedication stated "with honor to the past." He is clearly an articulate writer, so such a task should not have been too difficult, unless he thought his brutish, fat American fans could not grasp it. If you want additional (and better) insight into the mind of Neil Peart, read his other book, "The Masked Rider - Cycling in Africa." Expect the same level of writing, however. So Carrie: thanks for Vapor Trails. Tell Neil we still love and appreciate him regardless of how he feels about us.

This book is a pretty raw look into Neil Peart's two years of tragedy and recovery. It's one part travel log and two parts memoir. I found the travel log part to be well written and inspiring. I was reading the book during the winter and it was sheer torture not being able to ride. I'm already saving for a cross country trip this summer. Neil is a hardcore motorcyclist. I admire his ability to jump on a bike in August and head for Alaska and the Northwest when at that time of year it could well snow at any time. Neil is obviously a well read individual and points out interesting facts and scenery. He's observant and knowledgeable on a wide range of subjects and interests. Something I liked about the book was an exposure to the writers and places he mentions. I found myself writing down many of the books and authors he writes about. I like several of the authors Neil mentions which makes me

suspect I'll like some of the ones I'm unfamiliar with. His descriptions of scenery and wild life are adequate but not particularly spectacular. Writing great lyrics for a song doesn't necessarily make writing a great book a sure thing. Not that the narrative is bad but more uneven. The memoir is as interesting as the travel portion. Most of the time Neil is brutally honest even when he comes across looking less than perfect. I'm not someone who needs the deep dark details of a celebrity's life but there is just enough of that here for my tastes. I have been a fan of Rush since I was a teen and it's good to get a small glimpse into a band that tends to keep a low profile. Neil comes across as someone relatively unaware of his stature as one of the all time greatest drummers in rock. He strikes me as someone very grounded, humble and normal. At the same time he also has the jerk side to his personality but that just makes him seem all that much more normal. Although he does tend to look down his nose at the common tourist type, showing some disdain for people who drive to the peak of a mountain rather than hike the seven miles. Not everyone likes to hike Neil. I found the book ended way too abruptly and the last one quarter kind of had a choppy flow to it. That's a shame because it made the book feel unfinished. I think the editor could have really cut some of the excess out also. I'm not normally as moved by a book as I found myself moved by this one. Neil's description of the pain he went through on his daughter's birthday almost had me crying. I can really identify with the catharsis Neil finds from the act of riding a motorcycle. Maybe this is why I really liked the book. The book wasn't perfect by any means but it taught me a few things, made me laugh a couple of times, made me think and most of all made me long for the road. Not bad accomplishments for a book.

hard to read due to the sadness. but i feel it was a very intimate portrayal of that point in his life. but sad.

This was not an easy read, but was very much worth the effort! I've been a Rush fan for years, and have enjoyed their musicality coupled with Neil Peart's lyrics. This was my first foray into his prose. Knowing that his life had been touched by tragedy was some preparation for what followed. In the form of a travelogue, he writes of his solo motorcycle travels on "the healing road." It was not an easy journey! Looking forward to reading his other works!

A good read. Perhaps the greatest drummer who ever lived Neil Peart tells us a grand story of hardship, healing, and adventure.

I enjoyed the well told story of a rebuilt life. I also enjoyed the tales of motorcycling through many places I have visited on two wheels as well.

I PROMISE to finish it, this time!! Praise & Kudos for Mr. Peart, for sharing his little baby-soul with us all.

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