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The Carbon Cycle: Crossing the Great Divide

Kate Rawles

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Kate Rawles sets out to discover about global warming the hard way **-- Michael Palin, author of Around the World in 80 Days and Pole to Pole**

A wonderfully rich and insightful narrative ... an extraordinarily revealing series of vignettes. Kates workaday belief that the principal purpose of philosophy is to question the assumptions of our age keeps even her most abstract reflections grounded in an admirable way. **-- Jonathon Porritt, author of *Capitalism as if the World Matters***

In 2006 outdoor philosopher Kate Rawles cycled 4553 miles from Texas to Alaska, following the spine of the Rocky Mountains as closely as possible. Cycling across unforgiving but starkly beautiful landscapes in both the United States and Canada deserts, high mountain passes, glaciers and eventually down to the sea she encountered bears, wolves, moose, cliff-swallows, aspens and a single, astonishing lynx. Along the way, she talked to North Americans about climate change from truck drivers to politicians to find out what they knew about it, whether they cared, and if they did, what they thought they could do. Kate tells the story of a trip in which she has to deal with the rigours of cycling for ten hours a day in temperatures often in excess of 100° F, fighting punctures, endless repairs and inescapable, grinding fatigue . But in recounting the physical struggle of such a journey, she also does constant battle with her own ideas and assumptions, helping us to cross the great divide between where we are on climate change and where we need to be. Can we tackle climate change while still keeping our modern Western lifestyles intact? Should we put biofuel in our camper vans and RVs? Or do we need much deeper shifts in lifestyles, values and worldviews?

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