



My Life on the Road

By Gloria Steinem

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NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • Gloria Steinem—writer, activist, organizer, and inspiring leader—tells a story she has never told before, a candid account of her life as a traveler, a listener, and a catalyst for change.

ONE OF O: THE OPRAH MAGAZINE'S TEN FAVORITE BOOKS OF THE YEAR | NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY Harper's Bazaar • St. Louis Post-Dispatch • Publishers Weekly

When people ask me why I still have hope and energy after all these years, I always say: Because I travel. Taking to the road—by which I mean letting the road take you—changed who I thought I was. The road is messy in the way that real life is messy. It leads us out of denial and into reality, out of theory and into practice, out of caution and into action, out of statistics and into stories—in short, out of our heads and into our hearts.

Gloria Steinem had an itinerant childhood. When she was a young girl, her father would pack the family in the car every fall and drive across country searching for adventure and trying to make a living. The seeds were planted: Gloria realized that growing up didn't have to mean settling down. And so began a lifetime of travel, of activism and leadership, of listening to people whose voices and ideas would inspire change and revolution.

My Life on the Road is the moving, funny, and profound story of Gloria's growth and also the growth of a revolutionary movement for equality—and the story of how surprising encounters on the road shaped both. From her first experience of social activism among women in India to her work as a journalist in the 1960s; from the whirlwind of political campaigns to the founding of *Ms.* magazine; from the historic 1977 National Women's Conference to her travels through Indian Country—a lifetime spent on the road allowed Gloria to listen and connect deeply with people, to understand that context is everything, and to become part of a movement that would change the world.

In prose that is revealing and rich, Gloria reminds us that living in an open, observant, and “on the road” state of mind can make a difference in how we learn, what we do, and how we understand each other.

Praise for *My Life on the Road*

“This legendary feminist makes a compelling case for traveling as listening: a way of letting strangers’ stories flow, as she puts it, ‘out of our heads and into our hearts.’”—*People*

“Like Steinem herself, [*My Life on the Road*] is thoughtful and astonishingly humble. It is also filled with a sense of the momentous while offering deeply personal insights into what shaped her.”—*O: The Oprah Magazine*

“A lyrical meditation on restlessness and the quest for equity . . . Part of the appeal of *My Life* is how Steinem, with evocative, melodic prose, conveys the air of discovery and wonder she felt during so many of her journeys. . . . The lessons imparted in *Life on the Road* offer more than a reminiscence. They are a beacon of hope for the future.”—*USA Today*

“A warmly companionable look back at nearly five decades as itinerant feminist organizer and standard-bearer. If you’ve ever wondered what it might be like to sit down with Ms. Steinem for a casual dinner, this disarmingly intimate book gives a pretty good idea, mixing hard-won pragmatic lessons with more inspirational insights.”—*The New York Times*

“Steinem rocks. *My Life on the Road* abounds with fresh insights and is as populist as can be.”—*The Boston Globe*

From the Hardcover edition.

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My Life on the Road By Gloria Steinem Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

An Amazon Best Book of November 2015: To women “of a certain age” – a euphemism the author of this book would surely abhor – the idea that Gloria Steinem is a revolutionary thinker, a wonderful writer and a practical activist is not, perhaps, news. (But there is something joyful in the rediscovery of same.) To those who didn’t know or don’t remember the Steinem story – founding *Ms. Magazine*, fighting for reproductive rights, waiting to marry until she was in her 60s! -- it might be a revelation. Long before Sheryl Sandberg leaned in at work, Steinem was preaching the gospel of empowered women by, among other things, travelling the country and the world listening to people, gathering stories and insights, offering support of the intellectual and emotional kind. From the very first page – in which she dedicates her book to the British doctor who ended Steinem’s pregnancy, illegally, in 1957 – to the tales of a supposedly shy woman who admitted she wanted to nail their sloppy husband’s tossed-anywhere underwear to the floor, Steinem recounts a life well-travelled in every sense. Now 81, the woman who at 40 replied to a compliment about her appearance with “this is what 40 looks like,” Steinem can still raise consciousnesses, including her own.
– Sara Nelson

Review

“This legendary feminist makes a compelling case for traveling as listening: a way of letting strangers’ stories flow, as she puts it, ‘out of our heads and into our hearts.’”—*People*

“Like Steinem herself, [*My Life on the Road*] is thoughtful and astonishingly humble. It is also filled with a sense of the momentous while offering deeply personal insights into what shaped her.”—*O: The Oprah Magazine*

“[Steinem’s] new book is a lyrical meditation on restlessness and the quest for equity that has taken her from the women-only rail cars of India to myriad university campuses where she has helped generations of women and men rally their collective voices. . . . Part of the appeal of *My Life* is how Steinem, with evocative, melodic prose, conveys the air of discovery and wonder she felt during so many of her journeys. . . . Whatever one’s politics, such candor draws you in. And as the country continues to struggle with painful questions about race relations, reproductive rights and the plight of immigrants, the lessons imparted in *Life on the Road* offer more than a reminiscence. They are a beacon of hope for the future.”—*USA Today*

“*My Life on the Road*, Ms. Steinem’s first book in more than twenty years, is a warmly companionable look back at nearly five decades as itinerant feminist organizer and standard-bearer. If you’ve ever wondered what it might be like to sit down with Ms. Steinem for a casual dinner, this disarmingly intimate book gives a pretty good idea, mixing hard-won pragmatic lessons with more inspirational insights.”—*The New York Times*

“Steinem beautifully illustrates how her perpetual motion has shaped her professional life. . . . [She] has gained wisdom from cabdrivers and fellow airplane passengers, and gotten story tips from strangers at rural diners and truck stops. . . . Steinem’s life has been so remarkable that her memoir would have been fascinating even without a central theme, but her decision to use travel as a thematic thread was a smart one.”—*The New York Times Book Review (Editors’ Choice)*

“Steinem rocks. *My Life on the Road* abounds with fresh insights and is as populist as can be. . . . Honoring its title, *My Life on the Road* ranges around subject-wise. One minute Steinem is writing about stewardesses on the shuttle, the next women who taught Gandhi. Now she’s railing against Betty Friedan, whose focus on white middle-class feminism Steinem argues damaged the movement. Still later she’s celebrating her friendships with Native American women, whom she sees as guides into the future. . . . Go, Steinemite!”—**The Boston Globe**

“In person and in her writing, Steinem exudes a rare combination of calm, humility and honesty about her weaknesses that explains all she has accomplished and why she’s become the figurehead she has. . . . Her secret appears to be a surprising willingness to be open to learning from her incredibly varied audiences. . . . [This is] a memoir—but really, it’s a lens through which to see a great many people, a vessel for their stories, a mouthpiece to share them.”—**Jezebel**

“It’s amazing to have a lifelong heroine who is also one of my favorite writers. Gloria Steinem is a deeply revolutionary woman. She steered us through the contentious years of the women’s movement without losing her humanity or her wonderful sense of humor. She changed America in a fundamental way without being damaged by it or losing her joy. *My Life on the Road* is filled with beautifully told stories of the people she has spoken with and listened to, been changed by, helped organize, got radicalized by, could get lost in, could get found in. It is soul material, human and political, funny and touching, deeply spiritual. I began it again the day after I finished.”—**Anne Lamott**

“Rarely do women have the opportunity to travel as Steinem has done—living a life full of radical adventure. Everywhere she goes, she carries with her the vitality of democracy, of freedom for women and men, and her profound love of justice. Now she offers us the good fortune of journeying with her. *My Life on the Road* is an inspiring work, a call for action. Steinem shares her life as a global freedom fighter, inviting readers to continue the journey—and the struggle.”—**bell hooks**

“*My Life on the Road* is a personal, beautiful look at the deceptively radical act of travel and how it formed one of our most important voices for human rights. By delving deeper into her own thrilling story, Steinem shows us that we all have a fighter inside us—we need only pack our bags and follow her.”—**Lena Dunham**

“Countless times, I had to put Gloria Steinem’s new book down and allow an explosive truth she had just revealed to roll through me. And they all arrived—page after page—in the most personal, unexpected ways. I won’t be the same person after having read *My Life on the Road*.”—**Jane Fonda**

“Gloria Steinem’s new book is a lightning rod to the head and heart: stimulating, no, shocking us to get up out of our easy chairs and do something meaningful with our lives—to *hit the road*. Women will read *My Life on the Road*, but men *must*.”—**James Patterson**

“Gloria Steinem’s lightness of being combined with her complete seriousness, her love for words and her call for actions, remind us to celebrate her as one of the most important women of our time.”—**Diane von Furstenberg**

About the Author

Gloria Steinem is a writer, lecturer, editor, and feminist activist. In 1972, she co-founded *Ms.* magazine, and she remained one of its editors for fifteen years. In 1968, she helped found *New York* magazine, where she was a political columnist and wrote feature articles. Her books include the bestsellers *Revolution from Within*, *Outrageous Acts and Everyday Rebellions*, *Moving Beyond Words*, *Marilyn: Norma Jeane*, and *As if Women Matter* (published in India). Steinem has received the Penney-Missouri Journalism Award, the Front

Page and Clarion awards, the National Magazine Award, the Women's Sports Journalism Award, the Lifetime Achievement in Journalism Award from the Society of Professional Journalists, the Society of Writers Award from the United Nations, the James Weldon Johnson Award for Journalism, and many others. In 2013, she received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Barack Obama.

From the Hardcover edition.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Clarence Guyer:

Book is to be different for each grade. Book for children until eventually adult are different content. To be sure that book is very important for us. The book My Life on the Road was making you to know about other expertise and of course you can take more information. It is rather advantages for you. The guide My Life on the Road is not only giving you considerably more new information but also for being your friend when you experience bored. You can spend your own spend time to read your e-book. Try to make relationship with the book My Life on the Road. You never sense lose out for everything if you read some books.

Susan Burroughs:

This My Life on the Road are usually reliable for you who want to be a successful person, why. The main reason of this My Life on the Road can be on the list of great books you must have is giving you more than just simple examining food but feed an individual with information that might be will shock your prior knowledge. This book will be handy, you can bring it everywhere you go and whenever your conditions both in e-book and printed types. Beside that this My Life on the Road forcing you to have an enormous of experience like rich vocabulary, giving you trial run of critical thinking that could it useful in your day exercise. So , let's have it and enjoy reading.

Carissa Taylor:

Spent a free time and energy to be fun activity to accomplish! A lot of people spent their leisure time with their family, or their particular friends. Usually they accomplishing activity like watching television, going to beach, or picnic in the park. They actually doing same thing every week. Do you feel it? Would you like to something different to fill your own personal free time/ holiday? Could be reading a book may be option to fill your cost-free time/ holiday. The first thing that you ask may be what kinds of e-book that you should read. If you want to try out look for book, may be the e-book untitled My Life on the Road can be very good book to read. May be it might be best activity to you.

Garth McDonald:

Many people spending their moment by playing outside having friends, fun activity along with family or just watching TV the whole day. You can have new activity to spend your whole day by looking at a book. Ugh,

think reading a book will surely hard because you have to take the book everywhere? It all right you can have the e-book, taking everywhere you want in your Touch screen phone. Like My Life on the Road which is having the e-book version. So , try out this book? Let's see.

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