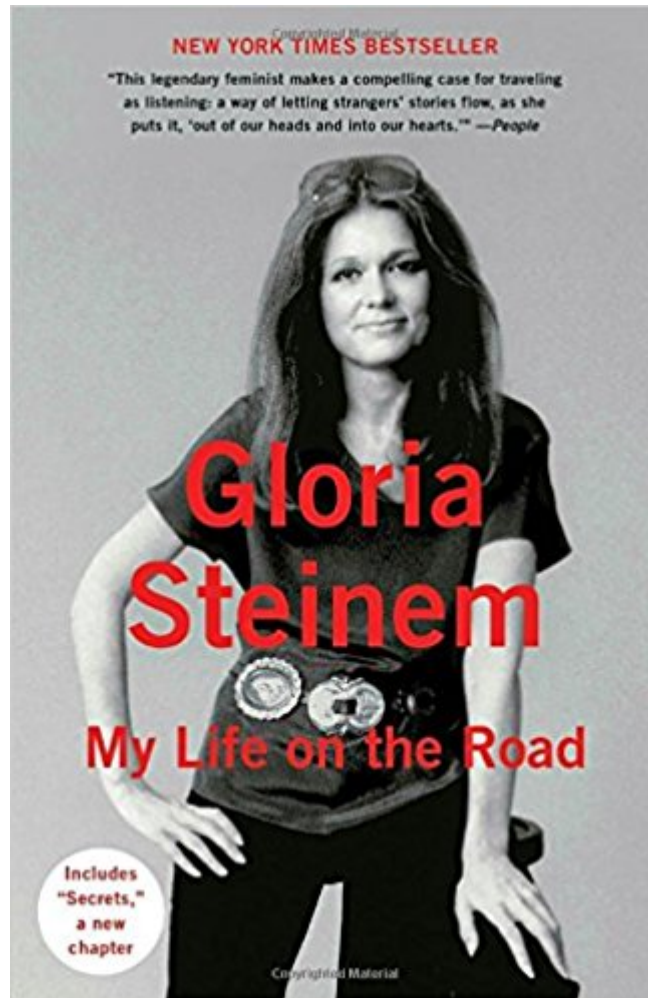




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My Life On The Road



Synopsis

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER | *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*

Gloria Steinem—writer, activist, organizer, and inspiring leader—now tells a story she has never told before, a candid account of her life as a traveler, a listener, and a catalyst for change. Includes “Secrets,” a new chapter!

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* “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 "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."

•Jezebel

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Customer Reviews

An Best Book of November 2015: To women "of a certain age" a euphemism the author of this book would surely abhor is 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 —This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

“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, Steinem! 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
From the Hardcover edition.

I taught women's studies for years so I am very familiar with Steinem's work and life. Even so, this book surprised me with its warmth and insight. It is not a biography but more of a road journal. It is not crafted by chronology but by memory and thought stream. I found it very engaging and moving. The opening dedication was heart rending for those of us who lived in those years. Steinem is the half generation between me and my mother. In the late 60's as my mother was ironing we were watching TV. The women's movement was considered radical fringe, even to my mother's peers who had built planes and careers during WWII only to be sent home afterwards. My mother watched Steinem on TV and said "she is so brave". I asked why and she said "she is so beautiful she could have had an easy life. She has chosen a hard road. It will make your life better". The absurd in the 1960s is now law of the land. It is with that in mind I read this book and appreciated the context of her travels and impact. This is a fast conversation of a book, not a polemic. I loved it and I hope it finds a wide audience.

My Life on the Road is one of those books for which I have to pause for a long time and be in awe and deep thought after reading. One of my differing views on the issues discussed is on abortion. I firmly believe that life begins at conception. Thus, a human being comes to life from that moment. But while I hold this value close to my heart, I do not condemn those who believe otherwise nor have engaged in such. Everyone has a story that has to be respected. The richness and mystery of human experience that is lived to the fullest is one of life's greatest triumph. Steinem, in all that she could be, lived hers. I hope to truly live mine. more at cruisingcherokee.wordpress.com

Gloria and I had never had much in common until I learned more about her in this very readable, My Life on the Road. Our politics don't match but our love and respect for human beings everywhere do match. I am proud of her efforts to bring women into the 21st century, to empower them, to enrich them. If you want to find out that you might have something in common with Gloria too, regardless of your politics and moral beliefs, read this enjoyable journal and you might learn something good!

What a pleasure to read the personal growth of my own idol. Humble, kind, insightful, introspective--Gloria enfolds her readers in a private journey of discovery as though we were all her closest gal-pals. I always feel privileged to have had her lead the way for me and so many others in

the opening of social doors through the years. I can so easily remember the financial and social prison my own grandmother abided in, my own rebellion against society's chains in my own formative years, and then the discovery that there was a non-shrill, intelligent, sensitive, and obviously loving woman to follow. Thank you once again, Gloria, for the sacrifices you've made for every woman. I was so thrilled for you when David came into your life. I met and spoke with both of you once and when you were called away, all he could speak about was his admiration for you. I was honored to be enlightened on a personal level through the eyes of a man who respected all you were. I could see my own loyalty was not wasted. This latest book has been icing on the cake of all your writings. I'm glad I lived during your time and am grateful for the similar experiences we shared, however remotely. I survived thanks to your leadership.

Highly recommend if you care of Human Rights! Civil Rights! Women Rights, Immigrant Rights and all rights in general. Our (men and women alike) have been struggling for a long time to gain our human rights and this is just one story of the long, long process of trying to get there. Being aware of the struggle that came before us is very important. We are not there by any stretch of the imagination! In fact, we might be in jeopardy of stepping back, far back, in the coming years. I was amazed at Gloria's life long dedication to the struggle for Human Rights for ALL peoples. There is a misconception out there that this is a "feminist" movement, but this was and is a "human" movement encompassing all "second class" peoples. Not just women. She and many others fought for everyone. Read this story and decide.

I appreciate Gloria Steinem's dedication in promoting women's issues.. However, the meetings, "talking circles", encounters just get tedious after a while. I was fine for the first 2/3 of the book. Sorry, I didn't love it.

Extraordinary book about a world traveler and American icon. As a 48 year old female reader, I was surprised what I didn't know about Gloria Steinem. I highly recommend young women read this book to learn about the history of American feminism in this country over the past 50 years. Feminism, which has held a stigma for years, has a true American history with foundation for the struggle of basic rights. The last chapter tells of our country's indigenous wisdom through leaders like Wilma Mankiller - my favorite chapter of the book!

I grew up as a female child of the 80's. Before reading this book I had an idea of who Gloria

Steinem is. An amorphous idea based on gossip lies and a vague understanding of the truth of what she and her contemporaries have accomplished and failed to accomplish. I'm ashamed it took me this long to actually take the time to read her account of some of the things she accomplished. Because she did them for me, and you, and herself, and our children, both boys and girls. And if we don't know, we can't continue in the same spirit to try to make the world a place where gender race and class aren't impossible barriers to accomplishment

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