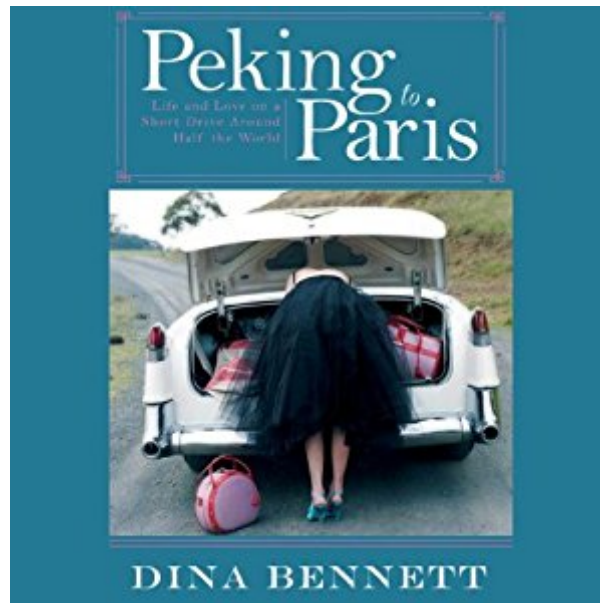




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# Peking To Paris: Life And Love On A Short Drive Around Half The World



## Synopsis

In this thrilling road trip from "Peking to Paris", a woman tries to save her car, her marriage, and her confidence from breaking down. In May 2007, leaving China's Great Wall is Car 84, one of 128 antique autos racing in the Peking to Paris Motor Challenge. It's guided by one Dina Bennett, the world's least likely navigator: a daydreamer prone to carsickness, riddled with self-doubt, and married to a thrill-seeking perfectionist who is half-human, half-racecar. What could possibly go wrong? Funny, self-deprecating, and marred by only a few acts of great fortitude, Peking to Paris is first and foremost a voyage of transformation. The listener is swept on a wild, emotional ride, with romance and adversity, torment and triumph. Starting in Beijing, Dina and her husband, Bernard, limp across the Gobi, Siberia, Baltic States, and south to Paris in a 1940 Cadillac LaSalle, while Dina nurses the absurd hope that she can turn herself into a person of courage and patience. Writing for every woman who's ever doubted herself and any man who's wondered what the woman traveling with him is thinking, Dina brings the reader with her as she deftly sidesteps rock-throwing Mongolians and locks horns with Russians left over from the Interpol era - not to mention getting a sandstorm facial and racing rabbits on a curvy country road. Come along for the ride with a dashboard diva!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I read lots of travel lit I enjoy the adventures and insights about countries, cultures, and personal journeys that genre provides. Dina Bennet's book is of middling quality. The car rally framework is a

unique hook, engaging. From the effort to get their car ready for the grueling endurance drive, to the mechanical problems they encounter and work to solve along the way between Mongolia and Estonia, as well as the people they meet, it's all new topic terrain for most readers, I'm sure. But some elements of the trip are never fully explained or resolved, like why did people like James behave the way they did? Did Dina and Bernard remain friends with Sybil and Robert? What's the difference between people like those and Dina that makes the Sybils and Jameses repeat Rally participants and not the Dinas? In a book that overflows with analysis of feelings and temperaments, it would have been more interesting if the author went beyond explaining just herself and speculated or explained more about what makes Rallyites tick. That's what the best travel lit does: it explores the culture of a place, it's history and development, as well as that of the primary characters in the adventure. I'm thinking of Bill Bryson, Paul Theroux, writers like that. This book is more along the lines of *Eat, Pray, Love*, a mix of memoir and travel, but the self-actualization resolution is not really present until the final wrap-up chapter. Until then there's a lot of lines of panic, self doubt, panic, self doubt, justification, worry, self doubt, worry, panic . . . . You get the picture. I don't doubt that Bennett felt that way along the trip. It just get a bit tiresome to read about it continuously. Finally, I congratulate the author on putting together the book. Writing a book is such hard work. While this isn't the best book I've read, that does not diminish my respect for people like Bennett who put together one and get it out there, and, in the process introduce me to a world I didn't know existed, like that of the Rallyites. I wouldn't recommend this, but nor would I dissuade some from reading it, particularly women who are struggling to build strength in themselves and their relationships.

I loved this book, I really did. It IS about life and love as much or more than it is about the P2P rally. If there are any disgruntled women who feel she whines too much, they must be afraid to face themselves in the honesty of Dina's self portrayal. I related to her self doubt and anguish on so many levels...competency, acceptance, neediness, pride, and so on. She was very brave to put herself out there so transparently and honestly so those of us who cherish personal growth could savor her personal journey. I thank her for that. Dina's writing is beautiful...visual, concise, and flowing. It was a quick read as a result.

boring

Dina captured my attention, awe and my empathy in her well written book about her adventures in Roxanne together with Bernard. I found myself laughing, cringing, anxious and celebrating along

with them as I was reading about their adventures. Kudos to Dina for writing what feels like a very honest account of what life on the long road must have been like. She succeeds in not only a great read but also in helping to normalize so many of feelings and insecurities we all have.

Applaudissement!

A journey of discovery, love and a passion for adventure, Dina Bennett takes you along on this wonderful ride.. I enjoyed every mishap, every bump in the road for this novice rally team. The story unwinds at a steady pace, however, towards the end, the narrative was a little rushed. Never mind, marvel at this improbable adventure, and her ability to bring you, the chair bound reader, along with them.

A must read for anyone considering participating in the Pekin to Paris Rally. Dina goes into good details of their preparation and participation experience which is virtually the same I have heard from other participants. No one should do this Rally until it reads this book.

That book was so good that I had to buy it for my son and daughter in law. For classic auto nuts, this is a must read. Now if only one had the money and time and mechanical expertise to do that kind of race. Loved it. An unforgettable read.

Not a bad book as such, and the author admits to not knowing much about cars, but references to things such as "inline V6" started to annoy me. A bit of proofreading on this kind of thing would have been nice.

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