

1,000-MILE SUMMER-V631

Colin Fletcher

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Colin Fletcher : 1,000-MILE SUMMER-V631 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised 1,000-MILE SUMMER-V631:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. No one else comes close (maybe John Muir, but Im still thinking).By Barewalker 58One of my all time favorites. If youre a walker, this should rank right up there with Muir and Thoreau. Colin Fletcher was the first of the modern walking writers and he set a high hurdle for those who followed. Ive read every book he ever wrote, including the original The Complete Walker. Mr Fletcher mixes wisdom, insight, humor and technical knowledge in such a unique blend that its never certain if hes writing a novel, a travel guide, a text book, a magazine article, or a personal journal entry. I love it. Nothing else comes close. Hes been my guiding light for over 40 years.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Pretty good bookBy John C. Skowronek Jr.A well-written book, really helped kick my winter blues, wanting to hit the trail. My only complaint is that the majority of the book takes place during his desert portion of the trip. I figured he would spend more time on his experiences in the high country of the Sierras, my favorite place in the world! The Sierras were only a small segment of the story, and although I enjoy the desert just as much as the next guy (I happen to live in it), I would have found the book more interesting had he elaborated on his time from Death Valley to the Oregon border.9 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Read It, Lived It and Walked ItBy H. M. Johnson IIIWhile living in the Seattle area during the 90's, I ended up reading Fletcher's 1000 Mile Summer. Each Winter to avoid depression, I found myself re-reading this book. One question kept coming to my mind, "why in 1958 would anybody walk through California when they had cars back then?" Thinking and hoping that I may be able to contact Colin and find the

answer, against all the naysayers and friends saying it was not possible, I attempted to contact Colin Fletcher. That in itself was a two year adventure. Finally, one day he returned my call, and thus started a series of questions and answers, that to this day, I am still fascinated with. The quick answer to my question "why/who would walk?" is really found by walking the length of California, not in reading his book(s). So in 1999, while everyone was getting ready for the end of the world, I was packing for "my" 1000 Mile Summer walk through California. I now have the answer to my question. I have read all of Fletcher's books, most articles written about him, and have spoken with him several times both in letters and in phone conversations. What a fascinating character! Also, "The Man From The Cave," was in my opinion one of his best books and would recommend reading it as well. Though he and I disagreed with life and our purposes in it, I certainly found a kindred spirit. I wish him the best wherever Death's travels take him. Was a sad day for me when I read he had passed, walking "his 1000 mile walk" was life changing for me and hoping one day YOU will be writing a review about MY book when it is published. Hersh UPDATE 8-22-12 Recently, while walking in the South Cascades near Ashland Oregon, I found myself lost in thought again questioning Fletcher's observations in life. I still believe he missed out on so much. Though this book is still a must read, I believe his observations, at least with regards to his other book, The Man Who Walked Through Time, is less interesting/convincing for those that are honest in trying to "Find their way" in this life today. HONEST being the key word here. I have found his foundational truths, or starting points to be faulty at best. Though I felt somewhat enlighten originally, I have since found a more solid starting point to ask the question, "Why would _____?" Should you, like someone did for the 50th anniversary, walk California seeking answers to Life's questions, be willing to be honest and truthful when hearing the answers found along the trail. Like gold in the desert, they are out there waiting for you to find them.

At three o'clock one sleepless night, Colin Fletcher decided that what he must do was walk the length of California. He could only fumble with the supporting reasons, but he knew it was a hike he had to make. Fletcher followed lonely stretches of the Colorado, crossed the Mojave, walked the trough of Death Valley and wandered through the High Sierras. Along the way he stumbled across an unspoiled ghost town and visited frontiers unseen by most Californians. William Hogan with The San Francisco Chronicle writes that THE THOUSAND-MILE SUMMER "is one of the most remarkable outdoor journals I have ever read and I recommend it unreservedly, as a rare treat."

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