

The Ultimate Cycling Adventure

Philanthropist couple prove their physical and mental fortitude as they take on the longest, and arguably most challenging, mountain bike trail on the planet.

The Spirit of the Trail

A Journey to Fulfillment Along the Continental Divide

"Decidedly not for sprinters, this battle royale braves mountain passes and windswept valleys of the Continental Divide from hinterlands of the Canadian Rockies to badlands of the Mexican Plateau." - tourdivide.org

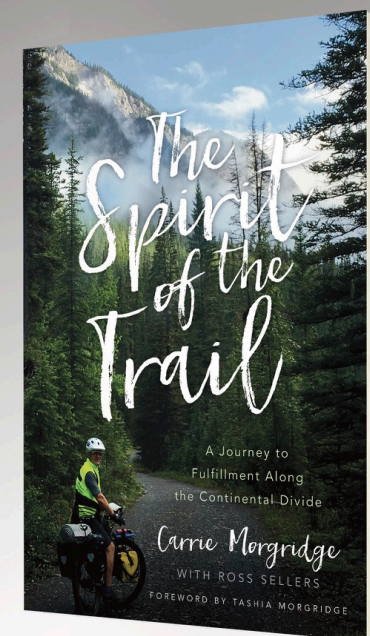
"A venturesome minority will always be eager to set off on their own, and no obstacles should be placed in their path; let them take risks, ...let them get lost, sunburnt, stranded, drowned, eaten by bears, buried alive under avalanches – that is the right and privilege of any free American." –Ed Abbey, author, environmentalist and one of the most eloquent and passionate advocates of the American West

While *The Spirit of the Trail* primarily describes the life-altering, 2,800-mile bicycling expedition on the Great Divide Mountain Bike Route (GDMBR) from Banff, Canada, to Antelope Wells, New Mexico endured by Carrie Morgridge and her husband, John, during the summer of 2016, it frequently touches on concepts and personal traits that are of vital importance to the Morgridge Family Foundation philanthropic mission. The Foundation strives to open new paths for children and adults. As bicycling offers a sustainable method of transportation, the Foundation models sustainable philanthropy. And while a cycling adventure is hands-on, so is the Foundation's search for worthwhile projects to support. The book serves as an informative (but not too technical) guide for those who are ready to tackle the GDMBR and anyone who is curious about stepping out of their comfort zone and facing a large or difficult challenge. Carrie's voice throughout is inspiring and uplifting, even on the days when she is tired of eating out of a can, sleeping on the ground and is considering giving up, she finds a meadowlark or a field of gorgeous wildflowers to remind her of all that she is thankful for, and presses on.

As with her earlier book, *Every Gift Matters*, their Foundation plans to contribute all proceeds to the Adventure Cycling Association in support of the Foundation's enduring commitment to health and environmental conservation.

Discussion topics

- Carrie vs. Cheryl (Strayed): How the character traits necessary to fuel such a trek - grit, discipline, total engagement, commitment to excellence, and the will to challenge oneself to greater achievements - are behaviors that the Morgridge Foundation seeks to find and foster in the populations it supports.
- 5 things you need to know before getting started on the GDMBR
- 3 mantras that will help you stay on track with your goals, especially when you feel like giving up
- A plant-based/vegan lifestyle on the trail- A cheeseburger without meat & cheese?
- Great gift for grads, mothers & father
- How do you cope with the people you are biking with? Do you even like each other after 46 days together on the trail?



SHEILA PARR

BOOK DETAILS

Amazon

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Self-Help | Cycling

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PR BY THE BOOK

About the Authors

Carrie Morgridge serves as the Vice President and Chief Disruptor of The Morgridge Family Foundation. The mission of the Foundation is to invest in transformative gifts. Carrie is the award-winning author of *Every Gift Matters – How Your Passion Can Change the World*.

Carrie and her husband John created the Student Support Foundation, a national organization that inspires youth philanthropy. For the past decade, they have celebrated and advanced the educator profession by creating mindSpark Learning which is focused on empowering educators to tackle the most challenging conditions in their schools through Design Thinking and other strategies.

Carrie speaks nationally to education advocacy forums, at poverty alleviation conferences, and many convenings, globally, that are philanthropically focused. She divides her time between Colorado and Florida. She and John have two children who both reside in Denver.

Carrie and John are avid athletes; they recently mountain biked across the country on the Great Divide Mountain Bike Route covering 2,774 miles from Canada to New Mexico in 46 days. Carrie has completed nine Ironman competitions.

Praise for Carrie Morgridge and *Every Gift Matters*

“An informative road-map to making every donation count...[Carrie Morgridge] persuasively argues that donating wisely at any level can bring about big change. Readers will find her astute guidance a valuable tool in choosing where to give.” — ***Publishers Weekly***



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